

Martha Jean Strickland

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I am a passionate, committed educational psychologist who has invested my life in studying, imagining, implementing, and evaluating the process of teaching and learning in transitioning contexts across nonprofit platforms and higher education institutions. I have over 20 years of cross-cultural and leadership experience as well as 18 years of professional higher education experience in teaching, training, leadership, evaluation, grant funding, and research using qualitative and mixed methods engaging focus groups to evaluate training initiatives and programs crossing academic disciplines, global contexts, and nonprofit work.

Key Strengths & Accomplishments

- Designed, created, and implemented expert international networks and novel approaches to teaching and learning including a cross-cultural service-learning course of Peruvian professors, Indigenous leaders, governmental leaders, and university honors students.
- Managed three research grants resulting in invited publications and presentations.
- Demonstrated extensive leadership within the nonprofit sector, managing a workforce exceeding 700 employees across 40 countries.
- Proven effective leadership in higher education, worked on a team of leaders serving more than 4,000 faculty as an elected chair of key faculty senate committees at The Pennsylvania State University, and directing 50 leading researchers as elected program chair for the American Educational Research Association Special Interest Group: Faculty Teaching Evaluation and Development.
- Exhibited effective communication as a colleague, researcher, peer-reviewed, and leader evidenced by the elected positions, publications, and top ratings in teaching.

Professional Experience

Associate Professor of Education Emeritus 2004 – Present

Penn State University – Harrisburg

Consulted with local and international nonprofit organizations facilitating planning, refining strategies, training, researching, and problem-solving focused on transitioning and culture crossing families.

Associate Professor of Education August 2006 – June 2024 (Tenured 2013)

Pennsylvania State University – Harrisburg

Designed and taught more than 40 undergraduate and graduate courses in learning theory, educational psychology, research design, and developmental psychology to over 1500 students. **Designed, facilitated, and evaluated professional development workshops** for interdisciplinary faculty and students focused on the process of learning and teaching, and engaging the context for enhanced engagement. **Designed a dozen research studies, employed and facilitated research teams** through the initial design and Institutional Review Board process, as well as recruited participants across cultures and disciplines, collected data using focus groups, interviews, and photo narrations, and qualitative and mixed methods data analysis. **Authored dozens of research publications** and edited a book highlighting immigrant and refugee researchers. **Peer-reviewed** over 50 manuscripts and served on an editor board for the School, Community Journal. **Effectively managed** grant funding and course recordkeeping across multiple internal and external grants. Served as a **leader in the university faculty senate** and the Honor programs. Awarded the Penn State Harrisburg **Faculty Diversity Award**. Successfully **facilitated and co-**

authored the national accreditation report of the university teacher education program with successful accreditation awarded 2024. Served as the elected **Committee Chair** of a Special Interest Group in the American Educational Research Association.

Education Faculty Advisor 2018 – 2024

Advised over 100 students annually on academic coursework and future career planning. Weekly **initiated effective advising approaches** engaging the Advising and Teacher Education departments as an appointed liaison between the advising office and the Teacher Education program.

University Faculty Senator 2019 – 2024

Pennsylvania State University

Informed policy and procedures of academic faculty and student life of Penn State University of over 4000 faculty, 19 campuses, 86,000 students, and a \$10.2 billion budget. Elected by the over 1000 Penn State Harrisburg faculty members to represent their voice, advocate for them on policy and academic concerns, and report university issues with the university leaders who administrated work across all 20 campuses totally 90,000 students and 8,000 faculty. **Chaired** the university faculty senate Education Committee and **elected council member** of the Faculty Advisory Committee responsible to **set monthly agendas, facilitate discussions, inform university policy, advocate for committee work on the main floor of the senate, and network with the university leadership** focused on faculty effectiveness and the university's initiative to re-imagine the higher education mandate across the complex and multiple-campus institution aligned with the institution's values and standards.

Assistant Director of Honors Programs 2013 – 2016

Penn State University – Harrisburg

Appointed position chosen from over 200 full-time faculty. **Mentored faculty and students** in multiple research projects. **Co-led off-campus educational experiences. Designed and led three academic trips to Peru's Amazon Rainforest** providing 10 honors students studying engineering, medicine, education, and human development with academic and service work within Indigenous communities. **Collaborated with a national university**, Peruvian experts on location, while **integrating service-learning and multidisciplinary coursework** that engaged the local context and community.

Director of Training and Education 1994 – 2001

CBI (World Venture), Littleton, CO

One of six leaders in this nonprofit responsible for the training and education of over 700 employees and their families working in 40+ countries. **Designed, facilitated, employed teams, and evaluated initiatives** and trainings focused on management, team building, formal education coaching, cultural awareness, and contextual impact. **Conducted home and field visits to over 40 countries** across Europe, Asia, Central Asia, South America, and the Middle East to address education and family issues through **creative problem-solving in education** and provide **formative care. Annually organized and facilitated a conference with over 200 employees** engaging speakers across missions, member care initiatives, higher education institutions, seminaries, and global contexts.

Coordinator of Education

CBI (Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society; World Venture), Wheaton, IL

Designed an internship program for employee briefings and debriefings. **Designed and facilitated family programs** for over 100 families with more than 200 children and youth each summer employing formative member care. Trained and facilitated team-building workshops across multiple global contexts.

Family and International Teacher Training Research Collaborator

Team designed **innovative new international teacher training** center. Developed curriculum while collaborating with researchers from Michigan State, Asbury Seminary, and Rosemead.

Elementary School Teacher, Grades 1-4

ICA (Ivory Coast Academy), Cote d'Ivoire West Africa

Taught Grades 1-4 children of North American, European, and African nonprofit and humanitarian workers. Collaborated annually with local nonprofit public health and training efforts.

Language Student

Centre Missionnaire (Centre Chrétien d'Enseignement du Français), Albertville, France

Nine months of immersion language study.

Elementary School Teacher

Westminster School, Miami, FL

Taught, designed, and implemented new programs in partnership with local nonprofits.

Education

Ed.D. Educational Psychology

Northern Illinois University – DeKalb, Illinois

M.A. Educational Leadership

University of South Florida – Tampa, Florida

B.A. Elementary Education

Wheaton College – Wheaton, Illinois; Illinois Teaching Certification, Type 03

Selected Publications

Book

Strickland, M.J. (ed.) (2022). *Composing storylines of possibilities: Immigrant and refugee families navigating school*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age.

Select Academic Publications

Cruz, L., Strickland, M. & Cruz, C. (2026). An exploratory study of the dimensions of curiosity reported by U.S. college students. *Discover Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44217-026-01431-y>

Strickland, M.J. & Spector, H. (2024). *Standard 2: Completer professional competence and growth*. Chapter of Accreditation Report. Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation [AAQEP].

Strickland, M.J., & Lyutykh, E. (2020). Community, diversity, and marginalization: An ecological construction of immigrant parenting within the U.S. neoliberal home and school contexts. *Educational Studies*, 56(3), 286-305, DOI: 10.1080/00131946.2020.1745806

Lyutykh, E., Strickland, M.J., Fasoli, L., & Adera, B. (2016). Third parties in home-school connections: Learning from conversations with nondominant families crossing cultures. *Journal of Family Diversity in Education*, 2(2), 35-61.

Select Professional Presentations

Strickland, M. J. (2023, September 29), *Differently Curious: Exploring Curiosity and its Gen Ed Implications*, PSU General Education Colloquium. Invited Keynote Speaker.

Strickland, M.J., Cruz, L. & Sottile, B. (2023, August 3). *Mapping US University Undergraduate Students' Curiosity: A Pilot Study*. Poster presented at the American Psychological Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C.

Strickland Resume

- Strickland, M.J. & Winkeljohn Black, S. (2023, August 3). *Understanding Religious Volunteers' Burnout and Spiritual Struggle and Their Implications*. Co-Chaired session at the American Psychological Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C.
- Strickland, M.J. & Winkeljohn Black, S. (2023, April 16). *Spiritually Integrated SEL: Learning from Refugee Resettlement Volunteers*. Paper co-presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- Strickland, M.J. & Skolnicki, D. (2021, April 11). *An ecological integration drama! Insights from Syrian refugee family dialogues as they authored their children's schooling in the UK*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Virtual.
- Strickland, M.J. (2021, April 10). *Educational psychology and human variation in a dynamic globalized context*. In Symposium: A 360 Re-View of Learning: Educational Psychologists Grapple with the Current Higher Education Landscape presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Virtual.
- Strickland, M.J. (2021, September 16). *Packing Smart. Traveling Light*. Penn State Advising Conference. Invited Keynote Speaker.