

# Deborah J. Amend, Ph.D.

[amendd1@nku.edu](mailto:amendd1@nku.edu)

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*I am an Assistant Professor of Special Education who has worked as an education instructional coach, licensed intervention specialist, and music teacher with demonstrated success in publishing, teaching in self-contained and inclusion settings, providing both group and individualized instruction, in public, private and parochial settings, kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> + grades.*

## Education

### Doctor of Philosophy in Education and Social Change

Bellarmine University Louisville, Kentucky

Dissertation: A Collaborative Framework for the Inclusion of Students with Extensive Support Needs

August 2019-  
May 11, 2024

### Master of Arts in Multicultural Special Education

Mount Saint Joseph University

August 2011-  
December 2013

### Bachelor of Music in Music Education

The College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati

August 1991-  
June 1995

## Employment History

### Assistant Professor of Special Education

Northern Kentucky University

June 2024-  
Present

### Elementary Special Education Instructional Coach

West Clermont School District Pre School- 5<sup>th</sup> grade, mild- extensive support needs

August 2022-  
2024

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**Intervention Specialist**

North College Hill Secondary Campus, Cincinnati, Ohio

August 2014-  
August 2021

- Taught students under all categories of IDEA
- Launched and maintained a work-study program
- Created a systematic reading intervention for students with ID
- Created life skills cooking, work, and budgeting curriculum
- Moved students from paper-based to computer-based applications
- Oversaw 10+ transition plans annually
- Oversaw paraprofessionals schedules, duties and training
- Collaborated with general education teachers and special services
- Leader, 2 years, building wide PBIS Team
- Differentiated instruction to a range of neurodiverse students
- Conducted Functional Behavioral Assessments
- Proficient in Board Maker, Symbol Stix, I-ready, IXL
- Proficient in Google and Microsoft Products
- IEP, BIP grades 5-12+ creation and implementation

**Music Teacher**

Saint Vivian School

August 2012-  
August 2014

- Development of general music curricula aligned with CCS
- Doubled the annual number of performances from 2 4
- Founded a competitive concert choir
- Coordinated concerts, competitions, special events
- Taught music history through school wide activities

**RESA Mentor Teacher, Author, Writer, Parent and Teacher Trainer**

Self-Employed

August 2006-  
August 2018

- Published adoption memoir, *A Dress for Anna*
- Child advocacy articles published in local and national publications
- Disability and poverty advocacy articles in national syndications
- Creator of parent and teacher workshops, taught in the US and abroad

**Owner, Teacher**

White Oak Piano Studio

June 2000-  
January 2006

- Created an inclusive piano and music theory course of study k-adult
- Created and implemented a PBS based piano method for students with autism
- Produced 3 annual recitals
- Produced competitive piano students with local and regional honors

**Adjunct Faculty**

Cincinnati Christian University

January 1998-  
August 2002

- Courses taught: *Music Methods for Elementary Age Children* and *Music Ministry in the Community*
- Evaluated and selected instructional materials
- Created collaborative observation programs with local elementary schools

- Collaborated with accreditation team for the creation of a Music Education program

### **Music Teacher**

Purcell Marion High School

August 1995-  
August 1998

- Music and Humanities (inclusive), Music Theory
- Beginning and Advanced Band (inclusive)
- Increased annual performance opportunities from 2-6

### **Accomplishments**

Co-Founder and Director of the Adaptive Music Project and Cincinnati Adaptive Music Camp

Volunteer Disability Support, Mission of Hope International, Nairobi, Kenya, Summer 2013

Volunteer Disability and Adoption Trainer, My Home, Kherson, Ukraine, 2007

Co-Founder and Leader, Christian Adoptive and Foster Families, 1999-2015

*Angels in Adoption Congressional Award*, 2017

*You Make a Difference Award*, NCH High School, 2018

*Cooter Social Justice Award*, Bellarmine University, 2022

*Cooter Social Justice Award*, Bellarmine University, 2024

### **Affiliations**

Council on Exceptional Children (DARTS, TED, Kentucky Divisions)

National Association of Special Education Teachers

### **Publications and Presentations**

Amend, D. (2009). *A dress for Anna: The story of the redemption of the life of a Ukrainian orphan*. CSS Publishing, Lima.

Amend, D. (2005). Challenging behavior. *Children's Voice: The Child Welfare League of America*, July.

Amend, D. (2012). The gift of tomorrow: Ukrainian-American partnerships work towards a Ukraine without orphans. *Prism Magazine*, (5)28-33.

Amend, D. (2014). Breaking down barriers: Piano study for ALL students. *Clavier Companion*, July/August, 29-31.

Amend, D. (2024, September 27). *Using a collaborative framework for the inclusion of students with extensive support needs* [Conference Presentation]. KATE Conference, Highland Heights, Kentucky, United State.

Amend, D., & Englert, P. (2022), January 16-19). *Exploratory study of the lived experience of families of children with intense needs* [Poster session]. CEC National Conference, Orlando, FL, United States.

Amend, D., & Nobel, M. (2022, June 15-17). *Using the models of disabilities to challenge deficit thinking and create more inclusive classrooms* [Conference presentation]. Ohio CEC/CCBD State Conference, Cincinnati, OH, United States.