Dr. Courtney Vierstra

Assistant Professor
LDES
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Education

Ph.D., Special Education **2006**

Kent State University

"A Comparative Analysis of the Employment Discrimination Experiences of Americans with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity and Other Disabling Conditions." Kent State University. Major Advisor: Dr. Phillip D. Rumrill. Defense Date: May 25, 2006.

Higher Education Work Experience

Assistant Professor of Rehabilitation Counseling **8/2007 - present**

Kent State University

Research Associate **0/2004 - 0/2007**

Center for Disability Studies, Kent State University

• € Developed and implemented funded projects related to the employment and education of people with disabilities. • €€€€€€€Administered budgets and prepared progress reports to funding agencies. • €€€€€€€Conducted applied research in the fields of rehabilitation, higher education, special education, and disability studies. • €€€€€€€Coordinated sampling and data collection activities. • €€€€€€€Delivered presentations of project findings at national conferences. • €€€€€€€ Maintained a national project website, the Classroom Accommodation Network, for students, faculty, and administration in higher education related to disability issues and accommodations. • €€€€€€€Supervised project staff and graduate assistants. • €€€€€€€Provided technical assistance and direct services to employers, faculty members, advocacy organizations, and people with disabilities.

Other Professional Experience

Research Associate, Research and Education Division **1/2003 - 8/2005**

Louis Stokes Department of Veterans Affairs, Brecksville, Ohio

• Recruited veterans for the Restless Legs Sleep Study. • Interviewed veterans via telephone. • Traveled to community based outpatient clinics. • Entered data into Access database.

Case Manager **0/2002 - 0/2003**

VocWorks, Inc., Columbus, Ohio

- *Conducted intake assessments.* • *Corresponded with Bureau of Worker's Compensation.* • *Coordinated and attended medical, psychological appointments with injured worker.* • *Maintained case records.* • *Monitored case progress.*

Publications

Rumrill, P., Bellini, J., Cowan, R., Staples, L., Hennessey, M., & Vierstra, C. (2009). Quantitative research designs. In P. Rumrill & J. Bellini, *Research in rehabilitation counseling: A guide to design, methodology, and utilization* (2nd ed.). Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas. 2009

Publication: *Book Chapters*

Luft, P., Vierstra, C., Copeland, C., & Resh, N. (2009). How staffing patterns impact employment outcomes across diverse D/HH consumers. *Journal of the American Deafness & Rehabilitation Association (JADARA)*, 210-219. 2009

Publication: *Journal Articles*

Higgins, K., K., Koch, L.C., Boughfman, E.M., & Vierstra, C. (2008). School-to-work transition and Asperger syndrome. *Work: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment, and Rehabilitation, 31,* 291-298. 2008

Publication: *Journal Articles, Refereed*

Vierstra, C.V., Rumrill, P.D., Koch, L.C., & McMahon, B.T. (2007). Multiple chemical sensitivity and workplace discrimination: The national EEOC ADA research project. Work: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment, and Rehabilitation, 28, 391-402. 2007

Publication: *Journal Articles, Refereed*

Koch, L., Rumrill, P., Hennessey, M., Vierstra, C., & Roessler, R. (2007). An ecological approach to facilitate successful employment outcomes among people with multiple chemical sensitivity. Work: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment, and Rehabilitation, 29, 341-349. 2007

Publication: *Journal Articles, Refereed*

Koch, L., Rumrill, P., Hennessey, M., Vierstra, C., & Roessler, R. (2007). An ecological approach to facilitate successful employment outcomes among people with multiple chemical sensitivity. *Work: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment, and Rehabilitation, 29,* 341-349. 2007

Publication: *Journal Articles, Refereed*

Koch, L., Vierstra, C., & Penix, K. (2006). A qualitative investigation of the psychosocial impact of multiple chemical sensitivity. Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling. 37, 33-40. 2006

Publication: *Journal Articles, Refereed*

Cowan, R., Hennessey, M., Vierstra, C., & Rumrill, P. (2004). Perspectives on scientific inquiry: Small-N designs in rehabilitation research.*Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation, 20*(2), 203-211. 2004

Publication: *Journal Articles, Refereed*

Rumrill, P., Roessler, R., Unger, D., & Vierstra, C. (2004). Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission case resolution patterns involving people with multiple sclerosis. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation, 20*(3), 171-176. 2004

Publication: *Journal Articles, Refereed*

Rumrill, P., Roessler, R., Vierstra, C., Hennessey, M., & Staples, L. (2004). Workplace barriers and job satisfaction among employed people with multiple sclerosis: An empirical rationale for early intervention. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*, *20*(3), 177-183. 2004

Publication: *Journal Articles, Refereed*

Roessler, R., Rumrill, P., Hennessey, M., Vierstra, C., Pugsley, E., & Pittman, A. (2003). Perceived strengths and weaknesses in employment policies and practices among people with multiple sclerosis: Results of a national survey. *Work: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment, and Rehabilitation, 21*(1), 25-36. 2003

Publication: *Journal Articles, Refereed*

Presentations

Vierstra, C., & Cyphers, G. Putting ethics into action – practicing the 2010 crcc code of ethics. *Northeast Ohio Rehabilitation Asso* 2011
*Northeast Ohio Rehabilitation Association.*Independence, Ohio, January 2011.

Type: *Regional Invited*

Vierstra, C., & Cyphers, G. The 2010 crcc code of ethics – new and improved. *Northeast Ohio Rehabilitation Association.* Independence, Ohio, January 2011. 2011

Type: *Regional Invited*

Vierstra, C. Qualitative research and rehabilitation counseling. (Guest Lecture). *Kent State University: Seminar in Disability Research*. Kent, Ohio, April 2011. 2011

Type: *Local Invited*

Vierstra, C. An analysis of the employment discrimination experiences of americans with multiple chemical sensitivity 1992-2008.*Annual Conference of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education; Concurrent Sess* 2011
*Rehabilitation Education; Concurrent Session.*Manhattan Beach, California, April 2011.

Type: *National Refereed*

Vierstra, C., & Luft, P. Case studies of deaf and hard of hearing (D/HH) adults. *Annual Conference of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education; Concurrent Session.* Manhattan Beach, California, April 2010. 2010

Type: *National Refereed*

Vierstra, C. & Rumrill, P. Access to quality higher education: A demonstration project. *Annual Conference of the Ass* 2010
Annual Conference of the Association of Higher Education and Disability; Poster Session. Denver, Colorado, July 2010.

Type: *National Refereed*

Minton, D., Stauffer, C., & Vierstra, C. Effective strategies to ensure students with disabilities receive a quality higher education, *2009 NASPA Annual National Conference; Concurrent Session*. Seattle, Washington, May 2009. 2009

Type: *National Refereed*

Vierstra, C., & Swan, J. Psychosocial aspects of sexuality and disability. *Northeast Ohio Rehabilitation Association.* Independence, Ohio, January 2009. 2009

Type: *Regional Invited*

Stauffer, C., Koch, L., & Vierstra, C. Faculty learning community on disability issues. *Annual Conference of the Nati Annual Conference of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education; Poster Session.* San Antonio, Texas, February 2009. 2009

Type: *National Refereed*

Emerging Disabilities: Psychosocial Challenges and Vocational Considerations for Consumers and Service ProvidersApril 15, 2008. PacRim Conference on Disabilities: Honolulu, HI. 2008

Type: *International Refereed*

Preparing Rehabilitation Counseling Students to Work with Emerging DisabilitiesFebruary 14, 2008. National Conference for Rehabilitation Educators: San Antonio, TX. 2008

Type: *National Refereed*

Koch, L., & Vierstra, C. Emerging disabilities: Psychosocial challenges and vocational considerations for consumers and service providers. *Pacific Rim Conference on Disabilities*; *Poster Session.* Honolulu, Hawaii, April 2008. 2008

Type: *International Refereed*

Vierstra, C., & Rumrill, P. Interdisciplinary alliances across campus: Professional development institute impacts faculty members' interactions with college students with disabilities. *Annual Conference of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education; Poster Session.* San Diego, California, February 2007. 2007

Type: *National Refereed*

Vierstra, C., & Savickas, S. Using the Work Experience Survey (WES) to assist people with disabilities in career maintenance. *The National Career Development Association Global Conference*; *Round Table Discussion.* Seattle, Washington, July 2007. 2007

Type: *National Refereed*

Vierstra, C. Psychosocial and vocational implications of multiple chemical sensitivity. *Annual Conference of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education; Poster Session.* San Diego, California, February 2007. 2007

Type: *National Refereed*

Vierstra, C., Koch, L., & Hennessey, M. Multiple chemical sensitivity and barriers to employment: Implications of recent research findings for assessment, planning, and placement. *National Rehabilitation Counseling Association Professional Development Symposium; Concurrent Session.* Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 2006. 2006

Type: *National Refereed*

Vierstra, C., & Penix, K. The mentoring relationship: Conducting research through a working alliance. *National Council of Rehabilitation Educators; Concurrent Session.* San Diego, California, February 2006. 2006

Type: *National Refereed*

Vierstra, C. Utilizing grounded theory in rehabilitation research. (Guest Lecture). *Kent State University: Seminar in Disability Research*. Kent, Ohio, April 2005. 2005

Type: *Local Invited*

Vierstra, C. Disability rights and employment issues after stroke. *Robinson Memorial Hospital: Stroke Survivors Support Group.* Ravenna, Ohio, June 2005. 2005

Type: *Local Invited*

Vierstra, C., & Koch, L. The vocational and independent living experiences of people with multiple chemical sensitivity. *American Counseling Association; Poster Session, sponsored by American Rehabilitation Counseling Association.* Atlanta, Georgia, April 2005. 2005

Type: *National Refereed*

Vierstra, C. The ADA: What you need to know, an overview for teachers (Guest Lecture). *Kent State University: Planning and Programming for Transitions.* Kent, Ohio, November 2004. 2004

Type: *Local Invited*

Rumrill, P., & Vierstra, C. Issues in employment and career development for people with multiple sclerosis. *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Annual Training Conference*. State College, Pennsylvania, October 2004. 2004

Type: *State Invited*

Vierstra, C., & Rumrill, P. Employment discrimination complaint and case resolution patterns of people with multiple sclerosis. *National Rehabilitation Counseling Association Professional Development Symposium*; *Panel.* Little Rock, Arkansas, September 2004. 2004

Type: *National Refereed*

Service

Member, Summit County Traumatic Brain Injury Collaborative **2009 - present**

This is an interdisciplinary, inter-agency organization serving the needs of people with traumatic brain injury in our area. The group was formed in December, 1992 to address service gaps and better use agencies and their programs to meet the specialized needs of individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Type: *Community*

Member, Curriculum Committee **2009 - present**

Type: *College*

Representative, Faculty Advisory Committee **2009 - present**

Type: *Department*

Member, Research Committee/National Council on Rehabilitation Education **2007 - present**

Type: *National*

Member, Curriculum Committee **2007 - present**

Type: *Department*

Grants

Co PI, RCD Training Across Four Diverse DHHS Subpopulations **2008 - 2013**

Collaboration with: Dr. Pamela Luft and Dr. Courtney Vierstra

Awarded: $500,000.00 (8 2008)

U.S. Department of Education - Training

Co PI, The Access to Quality Higher Education Project II **2005 - 2008**

Collaboration with: Dr. Phillip Rumrill and Dr. Courtney Vierstra

Awarded: $1,049,366.00 (0 0)

U.S. Department of Education - Training

Research Associate, An Empirical Investigation of the Employment Discrimination Experiences of Americans with Multiple Sclerosis **2005 - 2006**

Collaboration with: Dr. Phillip Rumrill and Dr. Richard Roessler

Awarded: $124,777.00 (0 0)

National Multiple Sclerosis Society - Applied Research