

Beckie Schwefel

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An Introduction

The Classroom has always been a second home to Beckie Schwefel. Growing up in Winnabow, NC, her mother worked as an administrative assistant in the Brunswick County School System. Her mother instilled something in her that continues to influence her work even today: the notion that anything is possible.

At Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, NC, she thrived in the atmosphere of personal contact with teachers and small classes and was not only eligible for inclusion in Phi Theta Kappa, but the club's sponsor, the Dean of the school Jim Stonesifer, convinced her to run for the nationwide presidency of PTK at the club's convention in San Francisco. Although she didn't take home the top prize that evening, she did gain valuable experience.

Initially after graduating Magna Cum Laude with an English teaching degree with middle school and high school certifications, Beckie chose to visit high schools across the southeast in a different capacity: as an admissions Counselor for Lees-McRae. Her main focus was the promising yet competitive Florida market. Looking forward to another year of recruiting college students, she got a late-summer call from the school system in Ashe Co., NC. They were looking for a teacher for the state funded Project Turnaround, a program that targeted 7th and 8th grade "at-risk" students. She decided to accept and two weeks later she had her own classroom.

Part of the funding included payment for her to take classes that offered alternative ways of assisting the learning process with challenged students, namely Brain Gym. She enrolled in the class, and walked in not knowing the first thing about what it would ultimately do: change the course of her life and the lives of her students.

Test scores for her middle school students, identified as those at risk of dropping out, showed significant improvement, especially in writing. And behavior in the room, which was at first challenging to say the least, improved markedly.

After several years of teaching Beckie gave birth to a son, Camden, and began rethinking her return to the classroom during her year-long sabbatical. She went first to Bolivia Elementary, just outside of Wilmington, NC, to share her new experiences and training. The students there thrived and the school received the "exemplary" designation. The Principal went to the state capital (Raleigh) and presented her program himself to a regional meeting of principals. In the interim, she also found time to log over 1,000 hours of training in basic, intermediate and higher level Brain Gym courses and Brain-Based Learning.

After forming the Whole Brain Learning Center in 1996, she decided that her best course would be to bring the concept of Whole Brain Learning and learning through movement to a wider audience than the small cluster of students in Project Turnaround.

In her further training she has studied with renowned brain studies researcher Eric Jensen and the creator and founder of Brain Gym Dr. Paul Dennison. She has combined and assimilated an easily applicable method for transforming classrooms and in effect, transforming lives.

Although she primarily works in school systems across the southeast and has worked with thousands of students in 200 schools as an educational consultant, she also works with a wide variety of individual clients in North and South Carolina and Virginia. She has been a featured presenter at Eric Jensen's Learning Brain Expo in Chicago and has studied with the creator and founder of Brain Gym, Dr. Paul Dennison several times over the past 11 years.

She has created two master's level classes for the Teacher Education Institute (<http://www.teachereducation.com>). The first course they wrote is entitled Whole Brain Learning and the second course, Accelerated Learning debuted in 2007. The classes are taught to teachers across the United States both face to face and online.



Education & Training

BACHELOR OF ARTS | 1989-1993 | LEES-MCRAE COLLEGE

- English/ Magna Cum Laude
- Teacher Certification Middle School and High School
- Licensed Brain Gym Instructor 1995-present
- Licensed to teach early childhood reflex development

Skills & Abilities

MANAGEMENT

- Owner and manager of Whole Brain Learning Center for the last 26 years
- Lead Teacher of Project Turnaround Alternative Program/Middle Grades/Ashe County, NC
- Lead Teacher of Whole Brain Learning/Brain Gym for pre-k-8th grades in over 200 public schools
- Lead Teacher in Elementary Reading Summer Program k-8th grades/ Ashe County, NC

COMMUNICATION

- Trainer for Whole Brain Learning Center to teach educators, administrators and parents about the importance of brain and body integration for learning and optimal performance
- Taught hundreds of pre-k students for optimum visual, auditory and kinesthetic integration
- Co-author of the Whole Brain Learning and Accelerated Learning course offered through Teacher Education University.

Experience

CONSULTANT | GREENVILLE, SC | 2015-PRESENT

- Instructor of neurophysiology for teachers, administrators, army and marine families and students for Whole Brain Learning
- Teacher for reading and writing and focus using Brain Balancing and developmental reflex movements

CONSULTANT | ALACHUA CO. SCHOOLS | UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA-LAB SCHOOL 2000-2003

- Consultant for over 40 classrooms in Focus, Reading, Writing & Public Speaking for GearUp/Pre-K-8th Grade
- Set up Whole Brain Centers in Pre K- 1st grade classrooms in Alachua County Florida/UF's Lab School

TEACHER/CONSULTANT | ASHE CO. SCHOOLS | 1995-PRESENT

- Alternative School teacher for 7th-8th Grade (1994-1998)
- Educational Consultant for Pre-K-High School, Summer and After School Reading Programs
- Teacher at Northwest Ashe High School for American Literature, Creative Writing, General English (1996)
- Teacher of Creative Writing and Public Speaking at local Homeschool group K-8th (2008-2014)
- Consultant for Ashe County DSS infant-12th Grade (2007-2014)
- Teaching PE and Yoga for local Homeschool group (2001-2014)

MOVEMENT CONSULTANT/THERAPIST | VARIOUS | 2015 TO PRESENT

- Instructor for Physical Therapists & Occupational Therapists
- In-Home Movement Therapist