

Leigh Kale D'Amico

Research Associate Professor
College of Education
University of South Carolina
704-258-5529
damico@mailbox.sc.edu

EDUCATION

Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, 2007

University of South Carolina-Columbia
Focus Area: Early Childhood Education
Dissertation: Impact of Accountability on K-2 Teaching Practices

Master of Public Administration, 1999

University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Focus Areas: Education Policy and Administration

Bachelor of Arts in English and Communication Studies, 1996

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

EXPERIENCE

May 2006 to
Present

Research Associate Professor (July 2021-Present)
Research Assistant Professor (July 2010 to June 2021)
Research Associate (August 2007 to July 2010)
Research Assistant (May to August 2006, November 2006 to May 2007)
Research, Evaluation, and Measurement Center
College of Education, University of South Carolina-Columbia

August 2004 to
May 2007

Research Assistant
Curriculum Studies, College of Education
University of South Carolina-Columbia

January 2006 to
May 2007

Teaching Assistant
EDCS 823: Curriculum Inquiry (Spring 2007)
EDRM 723: Classroom Assessment Methods (Summer 2006)
UNIV 201: Fundamentals of Inquiry (Spring 2006)

October 1998 to
November 2004

Senior Program Manager (November 2002 to August 2004)
Program Manager (March 1999 to November 2002)
Consultant (October 1998 to March 1999, August to November 2004)
Mecklenburg Partnership for Children (Smart Start), Charlotte, NC

- Coordinated strategic planning and policy analysis for the organization
- Oversaw early childhood education programming and activities
- Involved in the research, writing, administration, and evaluation of grants
- Assisted in the implementation of the NC *PreK/More at Four* initiative

RESEARCH

Serve or served as principal or co-principal investigator/evaluator on projects totaling approximately **\$8.3 million** since July 1, 2010; Lead teams that include faculty, staff, and graduate students in the development of research instruments, data collection, analysis of data, and preparation and presentation of reports.

Grant Funding

External Funding

2024-2029	Co-Principal Investigator with Vasanthi Rao, <i>Child Care Policy Research Partnership Grant in collaboration with Child Trends</i> , US Department of Health and Human Services (\$500,000)
2024-2027	Principal Investigator, <i>Preschool Development Grant: Needs Assessment (Activity 1) Renewal</i> , SC Department of Social Services via US Department of Health and Human Services (\$678,090)
2024-2026	Principal Evaluator, <i>Improving the Quality of Child Care Leadership in South Carolina</i> , SC Department of Social Services (\$108,899)
2025-2026	Principal Investigator, <i>Kindergarten Transition Academy Evaluation</i> , SC First Steps via US Department of Health and Human Services (\$50,000)
2023-2025	Principal Evaluator, <i>Teacher Quality Partnership Grant: Teacher Residency</i> , University of South Carolina via US Department of Education (\$229,584)
2023-2025	Principal Evaluator, USC Anne Frank Center, Claims Conference (\$28,000)
2024	Principal Investigator, <i>Countdown to Kindergarten Multilingual Learners</i> , SC First Steps (\$10,800)
2023-2024	Principal Investigator, <i>Preschool Development Grant: Needs Assessment (Activity 1) Planning</i> , SC Department of Social Services via US Department of Health and Human Services (\$114,293)
2023-2024	Principal Investigator, <i>Excellence and Equity in Education</i> , Columbia Urban League via SC Department of Education (\$61,560)
2022-2025	Principal Evaluator, <i>Institute for Measurement Methodology in Rural STEM Education-Postdoctoral Research Fellowship</i> , University of South Carolina via National Science Foundation (\$44,700 evaluation budget)
2022-2027	Principal Evaluator, <i>University of South Carolina Science and Mathematics Teachers Initiative Phase 3</i> , University of South Carolina via National Science Foundation (\$71,520 evaluation budget)
2020-2026	Co-Principal Investigator with Tammiee Dickenson, <i>ABC Quality: Preschool and School-age Process Standards</i> , SC Department of Social Services (\$923,516)

2020-2024 Principal Investigator, *Countdown to Kindergarten Evaluation*, South Carolina First Steps via US Department of Health and Human Services (\$270,760)

2020-2024 Principal Investigator, *Preschool Development Grant: Needs Assessment (Activity 1) Renewal*, SC Department of Social Services via US Department of Health and Human Services (\$884,784)

2019-2025 Principal Evaluator, *Transition to Teaching Residency (UofSC-T3)*: Teacher Quality Partnership award, US Department of Education (\$466,667 evaluation budget)

2019-2020 Co-Principal Investigator with Tammiee Dickenson, *Preschool Development Grant: Planning*, DC Department of Social Services via US Department of Health and Human Services (\$162,666)

2017-2022 Principal Evaluator, University of South Carolina Science and Mathematics Teachers Initiative Phase 2, University of South Carolina via National Science Foundation (\$124,200 evaluation budget)

2017-2022 Principal Investigator, *South Carolina School Improvement Grants Evaluation*, SC Department of Education via US Department of Education (\$491,340)

2015-2020 Principal Investigator, *Community Block Grant (PreK) Program Evaluation*, South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (\$222,423)

2014-2021 Principal Investigator, *Literacy 2030*, South Carolina State Library (\$250,000)

2014-2021 Principal Evaluator, *Developing Master Teachers through the SC Science and Mathematics Initiative*, University of South Carolina via National Science Foundation (\$258,251 evaluation budget)

2013-2018 Principal Investigator, *South Carolina Educator Evaluation System Evaluation*. South Carolina Department of Education (\$325,812)

2015-2016 Principal Investigator, *South Carolina C.H.A.R.T.E.R. Evaluation*, South Carolina Department of Education via US Department of Education (\$84,634)

2014-2016 Co-Principal Investigator with W. Brown, C. DiStefano, and F. Greer, *Child Develop. Education Program*, SC Education Oversight Committee (\$153,115)

2014-2017 Principal Investigator, *Quality Counts Evaluation: Spartanburg County First Steps*, Mary Black Foundation (\$100,700)

2014-2016 Principal Investigator, *Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale Evaluation: St. Lawrence Place*, United Way of the Midlands (\$14,530)

2014-2015 Principal Investigator, *Richland Library Literacy 2030*, Central Carolina Community Foundation (\$15,000)

2014	Contributor, <i>Help Me Grow South Carolina Evaluation</i> , Greenville Hospital System (\$49,998)
2012-2018	Principal Investigator, <i>Learning Bridge (Here Comes Kindergarten and Project Summer Stride)</i> , Richland Library via United Way of the Midlands (\$186,470)
2012-2013	Principal Investigator, <i>Midlands Reading</i> , United Way of Midlands (\$15,000)
2011-2014	Principal Investigator, <i>Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools PK-8 Transition Project Evaluation</i> , Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, (\$122,390)
2011-2012	Co-Principal Investigator with William Brown, <i>Developing Community Indicators of School Readiness</i> , South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness (\$39,758)
2010-2016	Principal Evaluator, <i>Winthrop Initiative for STEM Educators</i> , National Science Foundation (\$80,868 evaluation budget)
2010-2015	Co-Principal Investigator with William Brown, <i>Paraprofessionals Preservice Improvement Grant</i> , US Department of Education (\$576,316)
2006-2009	Research Associate, <i>Professional Development in Classroom Assessment</i> , SC Department of Education via Institute of Education Sciences (\$311,262) not included in total above

Internal Funding

2019-2020	Co-Principal Investigator with Rhonda Jeffries, <i>The Teacher Leadership Training Institute</i> , College of Education, University of South Carolina (\$8,915)
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Publications

Fan, X., **D'Amico, L.K.** & Long, D. (2025). A longitudinal mixed-methods study on the impact and implementation of a school improvement policy initiative. *Educational Research for Policy and Practice*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10671-025-09393-y>

D'Amico, L. K., Fan, X., Garrett, S., Zhang, X., Kilburn, J., Jones, A., & Richard, C. (2024). Supporting children and families with opportunity gaps: Educators' perspectives of a summer kindergarten transition program. *Educational Research and Evaluation*, 29 (5-6), 366-386. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13803611.2024.2352493>

Fan, X., **D'Amico, L. K.**, Kilburn, J., Jones, L., Richard, C., Zollars, L., Garrett, S., & Johnston, D. (2024). Factors associated with kindergarten readiness in early literacy skills, mathematical knowledge, and social foundations: An HLM approach. *Early Childhood Education Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-024-01744-3>

Fan, X., **D'Amico, L.K.**, Kilburn, J., Jones, A., Richard, C., Garrett, S. & Leverage, L. (2024). Kindergarten readiness: Associations with a summer transition program and teacher/school level factors. *Educational Research and Evaluation*, 29(7-8), 495-517. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13158-023-00378-7>

- Jones, A., Fan, X., **D'Amico, L. K.**, Kilburn, J., & Richard, C. (2024). Impacts of a summer transition program on kindergarten readiness for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. *Journal of Research in Childhood Education*, 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02568543.2024.2393808>
- D'Amico, L. K.**, Fan, X., Linder, S. M., Pawloski, T., & White, K. M. (2023). Examining early childhood education through the lens of stakeholders: A statewide needs assessment. *Journal of Early Childhood Research*, 21 (3), 273-287. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1476718X23117546>
- Linder, S. M., **D'Amico, L. K.** & Fan, X. (2023). The role of teacher/child interaction assessments in supporting professional learning within 4K settings. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 52, 2095-2106. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-023-01559-8>
- Fan, X., **D'Amico, L. K.**, Kilburn, J., Jones, A., Richard, C., Zollars, L. Garrett, S., & Johnson, D. (2023). Perspectives of parents and caregivers on kindergarten readiness: A focus on the impact of a summer transition program. *International Journal of Early Childhood*, 56(3), 555-583. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13158-023-00378-7>
- Thompson, S.L., Curcio, R., Adgerson, A., Harbour, K., **D'Amico, L. K.**, West, H. S., Roy, G. J., Baker, M. A., Guest, J., & Compton-Lilly, C. (2022). Virtual summer institutes as a method for rural science teacher development. *Theory & Practice in Rural Education*, 12(2), 153-178. <https://doi.org/10.3776/tpre.2022.v12n2p153-178>
- D'Amico, L. K.**, West, H. S., Baker, M. A., Roy, G. J., Curcio, R., Harbour, K. E., Thompson, S. L., Guest, J., Compton-Lilly, C., & Adgerson, A. J. (2022). Using improvement science to develop and implement a teacher residency program in rural school districts. *Theory & Practice in Rural Education*, 12(1), 83-104. <https://doi.org/10.3776/tpre.2022.v9n1p>
- Fan, X., Linder, S., **D'Amico, L. K.**, White, K. M., & Pawloski, T. (2021). Identifying the needs of prekindergarten children: A focus on health and wellbeing and family environment. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 50, 823-840. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-021-01206-0>
- Becton, Y. J., Bogiages, C., **D'Amico, L. K.**, Lilly, T., Currin, C., Jeffries, R. B., & Tamim, S. (2020). An emerging framework for the EdD Activist. *Impacting Education: Journal on Transforming Professional Practice*, 5(2), 43-54.
- D'Amico, L. K.**, Costner, K., Costner, B., Bell, C. M, Johnson, L., & Jeffries, R. B. (2020). STEM teaching and teacher retention in high-needs school districts. *School-University Partnerships*, 12(4), 24-35.
- D'Amico, L. K.** (2007). *Impact of educational accountability on reported teaching practices among teachers in primary and elementary schools*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation. University of South Carolina.
- Schramm-Pate, S. L., Jeffries, R. B., & **D'Amico, L. K.** (2006). Reflecting on Mary H. Wright Elementary: Ideologies of high expectations in a "re-segregated" school. In D. Armstrong & B. McMahan (Eds.), *Inclusion in urban educational environments: Addressing issues of diversity, equity, and social justice*. Greenwich, CT: Information Age Publishing.

Select Technical Reports

West, H., Leverage, L., **D'Amico, L. K.**, Ene, M., Leighton, E., & Crooks-Monastra, J. (2025, August). *Anne Frank Network international forum: Evaluation report*. Prepared for USC Anne Frank Center/Anne Frank House (Amsterdam).

Harrison, T., **D'Amico, L. K.** & West, H. (2025, March). *SC early childhood wage enhancement program: SC BOO\$T*. Prepared for SC Department of Social Services, US Department of Health and Human Services.

D'Amico, L. K., Fan, X., Rao, V., Perkins, K., Bottoms, B. (2023, April). *Early childhood education programs and workforce needs assessment*. Prepared for SC First Steps, SC Department of Social Services, and US Department of Health and Human Services.

Crooks-Monastra, J., **D'Amico, L. K.**, Garrett, S., Gilreath, R., Leverage, E. L., Zollars, L. (2023, March). *University of South Carolina Science and Mathematics Teachers Initiative Phase 3: Year 1 evaluation report*. Prepared for University of South Carolina and National Science Foundation.

Fan, X., **D'Amico, L. K.** (2022, October). *Preschool Development Grant parent survey technical report*. Prepared for SC Department of Social Services and US Department of Health and Human Services.

Fan, X., **D'Amico, L. K.**, Zollars, L., Garrett, S., & Johnston, D. (2022, September). *School Improvement Grant final evaluation report*. Prepared for SC Department of Education and US Department of Education.

West, H.S., **D'Amico, L. K.**, Crooks-Monastra, J., Gilreath, R. (2022, September) *South Carolina Transition to Teaching annual evaluation report*. Prepared for University of South Carolina and the US Department of Education.

D'Amico, L. K. (2022, August). *Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty annual evaluation report*. Prepared for Francis Marion University and the SC Education Oversight Committee.

Crooks-Monastra, J., **D'Amico, L. K.**, & Fan, X. (2022, March). *University of South Carolina Science and Mathematics Teachers Initiative Phase 2: Year 5 evaluation report*. Prepared for University of South Carolina and National Science Foundation.

D'Amico, L. K., & Johnson, L. (2021, August). *Winthrop University, ASPIRE Center of Excellence Year 1 evaluation report*. Prepared for Winthrop University and SC Commission on Higher Education.

Fan, X. & **D'Amico, L. K.** (2021, July). *Child and Adult Care Food Program: Focus groups and interview evaluation report*. Prepared for the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control and SC Department of Social Services.

D'Amico, L. K. (2021, May). *Winthrop Initiative for STEM Educators Year 5 evaluation report*. Prepared for Winthrop University and National Science Foundation.

D'Amico, L. K., West, H., & Fan, X. (2020, September). *University of South Carolina Transition to Teaching Year 1 evaluation report*. Prepared for University of South Carolina and US Department of Education.

- D'Amico, L. K.,** West, H., Hall, A., & Fan, X. (2020, July). *South Carolina Community Block Grants 2018-2019 evaluation report*. Prepared for South Carolina Education Oversight Committee..
- D'Amico, L. K.,** & Fan, X., (2020, January). *South Carolina School Improvement Grant evaluation report*. Prepared for South Carolina Department of Education and US Department of Education.
- D'Amico, L. K.,** Linder, S., Fan, X., Pawloski, T., & White, K. (2019, November). *South Carolina needs assessment report: Preschool Development Grant*. Prepared for US Department of Health and Human Services: Administration for Children and Families.
- D'Amico, L. K.,** Linder, S., Fan, X. (2019, September). *South Carolina Community Block Grants evaluation report*. Prepared for the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee.
- D'Amico, L. K.,** Crooks-Monastra, J., & Fan, X. (2019, July). *Developing master teachers: University of South Carolina Science and Mathematics Teacher Leader Program, Year 5 evaluation report*. Prepared for University of South Carolina and National Science Foundation.
- D'Amico, L. K.,** Crooks-Monastra, J., & Fan, X. (2019, February). *University of South Carolina Science and Mathematics Teachers Initiative Phase 2: Year 2 evaluation report*. Prepared for University of South Carolina and National Science Foundation.
- D'Amico, L. K.,** Fan, X., Cain, J. M., & Grohn, H. B. (2019, January). *South Carolina School Improvement Grants cohorts 3 and 4: Year 2 evaluation report*. Prepared for South Carolina Department of Education and US Department of Education.
- D'Amico, L. K.,** Cain, J. M., Brown, W. H., & Linder, S. (2018, September). *Education Oversight Committee Community Block Grants: 2016-2017 cohort evaluation report*. Prepared for Education Oversight Committee.
- Cain, J. M., **D'Amico, L. K.,** Moon, A., & Fan, X. (2018, July). *The Learning Bridge: Project Summer Stride and Here Comes Kindergarten evaluation report*. Prepared for Richland Library and United Way of the Midlands.
- D'Amico, L. K.,** Fan, X., & Grohn, H. B. (2018, June). *South Carolina Educator Effectiveness: 2016-2018 Expanded ADEPT evaluation report*. Prepared for South Carolina Department of Education and Southern Regional Education Board.
- D'Amico, L. K.,** Cain, J. M., Fan, X., Grohn, H., & Martin, C. (2018, January). *South Carolina School Improvement Grants (SIG) cohorts 3 and 4: Year 1 evaluation report*. Prepared for South Carolina Department of Education and US Department of Education.
- D'Amico, L. K.,** Linder, S. M., Cain, J. M., Brown, W. H., Greer, F., & Moon, A. (2017, October). *Education Oversight Committee Community Block Grant evaluation report: 2015-2016 grant awards*. Prepared for the Education Oversight Committee.
- D'Amico, L. K.,** Cain, J. M., Moon, A., Fan, X., & Prince, G. (2017, June). *The Learning Bridge 2016-2017 evaluation report*. Prepared for Richland Library and United Way of the Midlands.

- D'Amico, L. K.,** Moon, A. M., & Prince, G., (2016, December). *Project Summer Stride 2016 interim evaluation report*. Prepared for Richland Library and United Way of the Midlands.
- Grohn, H. B., **D'Amico, L. K.,** Prince, G., Moon, A., & Fan, X., (2016, July). *South Carolina Creating High-Quality Academic Reform through Effective Resources (CHARTER) evaluation report (2010–2016)*. Prepared for South Carolina Department of Education and US Department of Education.
- D'Amico, L. K.,** & Pompey, K. (2016, July). *Developing master teachers through the South Carolina Science and Mathematics Teachers Leaders Program (SMTL) Year 2 evaluation report*. Prepared for University of South Carolina and National Science Foundation.
- D'Amico, L. K.,** & Pompey, K., (2016, July). *University of South Carolina Science and Mathematics Teachers Initiative Year 6 evaluation report*. Prepared for University of South Carolina and National Science Foundation.
- D'Amico, L. K.,** Zhang, X., Prince, G., Fan, X., Moon, A., Miller, K. M., & Gaines, S. (2015, December). *Quality Counts Year 1 evaluation report*. Prepared for Mary Black Foundation.
- Brown, W. H., **D'Amico, L. K.,** Miller, K. M., Greer, F., DiStefano, C., & Prince, G. (2015, July). *CIRCLE (Kindergarten Readiness Assessment) Evaluation*. Prepared for South Carolina Education Oversight Committee.
- D'Amico, L. K.,** Miller, K. M., & Prince, G. (2014, December). *Richland Library Literacy 2030, Richland County*. Prepared for Richland Library and Central Carolina Community Foundation.
- D'Amico, L. K.,** Rao, V., Knopf, H., & Googe, H. (2014, November). *Help Me Grow South Carolina: Year 1 evaluation report*. Prepared for Greenville Hospital System.
- D'Amico, L. K.,** Miller, K. M., Dickenson, T., Prince, G., Blue, G., & Eagle, M. P. (2014, Fall). *South Carolina Department of Education educator evaluation pilot project: 2013-2014 annual report*. Prepared for South Carolina Department of Education and presented to South Carolina State Board.
- D'Amico, L. K.,** Miller, K. M., & Dixon, J. (2013, December). *Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools PK-8 transition study: Year 2 evaluation report*. Prepared for Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools.
- Miller, K. M., **D'Amico, L. K.,** & Dixon, J. (2013, November). *Project Summer Stride program evaluation*. Prepared for Richland Library (projected funded by Institute of Museum and Library Sciences).
- D'Amico, L. K.,** Miller, K. M., & Dixon, J. (2013, August). *Midlands Reading Consortium 2012-2013 evaluation report*. Prepared for United Way of the Midlands.
- Brown, W. H., **D'Amico, L. K.,** & Miller, K. M. (2013, March). *Defining, understanding, assessing, and evaluating school readiness in South Carolina*. Prepared for South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness.
- D'Amico, L. K.** (2013, February). *Knox County TAP Year 2 evaluation report for Teacher Incentive Fund 3 Project*. Prepared for National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (project funded by U.S. Department of Education).

D'Amico, L. K. (2012, August). *Evaluation of Winthrop initiative for STEM educators*. Prepared for Winthrop University (project funded by the National Science Foundation).

D'Amico, L. K., Dickenson, T., Miller, K. M., & Tison, J. (2012, August). *Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools PK-8 transition study: Year 1 evaluation report*. Prepared for Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools.

D'Amico, L. K., Hansen, A., & Miller, K. M. (2010, September). *South Carolina Writing Improvement Network 2008-2010 external evaluation*. Prepared for South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (SC Legislative Proviso 1A.39).

D'Amico, L. K., Morgan, G., & Gilmore, J. (2010, May). *An Evaluation of Teacher Quality Research (TQR) investment, implementation, and long-term student achievement effects*. Prepared for South Carolina Department of Education (projected funded by Institute of Education Sciences).

D'Amico, L. K. (2009, September). *Five-year comprehensive evaluation of Center of Excellence in Collaborative Learning at the University of South Carolina Beaufort (2004-2009)*. Prepared for South Carolina Commission on Higher Education.

Conference Presentations

Harrison, T., **D'Amico, L. K.**, Kilburn, J., & Maley, S. (2025, April). *Equitable assessment practices with multilingual learners*. [Roundtable]. American Educational Research Association, Denver, Colorado.

D'Amico, L. K., West, H. S., Roy, G. J., & Harbour, K. E. (2024, June). *Increasing engagement, connections, and belonging for long-term success in a Grow Your Own residency program*. Effective Educator Development Summit: US Department of Education. Alexandria, VA.

Richard, C., **D'Amico, L. K.**, Harrison, T., Jones, A., & Kilburn, J. (2024, June). *Innovations in kindergarten transition: Teacher-Family connections prior to kindergarten*. [Poster]. National Research Conference on Early Childhood: Administration for Children and Families, Washington, DC.

West, H., Crooks-Monastra, J., **D'Amico, L. K.**, Gilreath, R., Roy, G. J., Harbour, K. E., & Thompson, S. L. (2024, April). *Creating possibilities: Teacher preparation for rural places*. [Roundtable]. American Educational Research Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

D'Amico, L. K., Fan, X., Jones, A. J., Kilburn, J., & Richard, C. (2024, April). *Investigating factors related to kindergarten readiness using an HLM approach*. [Poster presentation and E-lighting presentation]. American Educational Research Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

D'Amico, L. K., Richard, C., Jones, A., Kilburn, J., & Fan, X. (2023, October). *Using participatory evaluation to understand the implementation and impact of a statewide kindergarten transition program* [Paper presentation]. American Evaluation Association, Indianapolis, IN.

Fan, X., **D'Amico, L. K.**, Kilburn, J., Jones, A., Richard, C., Garrett, S., Leverage, E. L. (2023, April). *Supporting at-promise children for kindergarten readiness: Impact of a summer transition program*. [Paper presentation]. American Educational Research Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

- Linder, S. M., Fan, X. & **D'Amico, L. K.** (2022, November) *Identifying the needs of young children and families to support early learning and development*. National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators Conference, Washington, DC.
- D'Amico, L. K.** (2022, October). *Improving children's transitions to prekindergarten and kindergarten*. South Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children Conference. Columbia, SC.
- D'Amico, L. K.** & Fan, X. (2022, August). *Understanding opportunities and challenges in children's transition to 4K*. Palmetto PreK Jamboree. Virtual.
- Roy, G. J., West, H. S. & **D'Amico, L. K.** (2022, July). *Engaging from within: Implementing a rural Grow Your Own residency program*. US Department of Education Effective Educator Development Summit. Washington, DC.
- D'Amico, L. K.**, West, H. S., Baker, M., Roy, G. J., Fan, X., Adgeron, A. J., Compton-Lilly, C., Curcio, R. Harbour, K. E., Guest, J., & Thompson, S. L. (2022, April). *Advancing teacher recruitment and retention: Using improvement science to develop a residency program* [Roundtable presentation]. American Educational Research Association Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Dickenson, T., West, H. S., **D'Amico, L. K.**, Kovacks, C. A., Hinson, B., Hunter, B., Akos, D., Gilreath, R., & Leverage, L. (2022, April). *Content and response process validity evidence for a state-developed measure of preschool teaching quality* [Paper presentation]. American Educational Research Association Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Fan, X., **D'Amico, L. K.**, Linder, S. M., & Cain, J. M. (2022, April). *How do teen parents/caregivers view the needs of young children?* [Roundtable presentation]. American Educational Research Association Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Crooks-Monastra, J., Fan, X., **D'Amico, L. K.**, Costner, K. M., & Adgeron, A. (2022, March) *STEM teachers' experiences with COVID-19: How it shaped their teaching and career intentions*. South Carolina Educators for the Practical Use of Research Conference. virtual.
- Tamim, S., Currin, E. Becton, Y., Jeffries, R., **D'Amico, L. K.** (2021, October). *Sharpening our tools: The evolution of an EdD Program within the CPED Framework*. [Conference session]. Carnegie Project for the Education Doctorate Convening, virtual.
- D'Amico, L. K.**, West, H. S., Baker, M., Curcio, R., Roy, G. J., Thompson, S. L., Adgeron, A. J., & Guest, J. (2021, April). *Using improvement science to implement and evaluate a teacher residency program in rural school districts* [Paper presentation]. American Educational Research Association Conference, virtual.
- D'Amico, L. K.**, Linder, S. M., & Fan, X. (2021, April). *Understanding the landscape of early childhood through multiple stakeholders: A statewide examination of priorities* [Paper presentation]. American Educational Research Association Conference, virtual.
- Fan, X., **D'Amico, L. K.**, & Long, D. (2021, April). *Implementation and impact of School Improvement Grants in South Carolina* [Roundtable presentation]. American Educational Research Association Conference, virtual.

- Jeffries, R. B., **D'Amico, L. K.**, Reed, H. (2021, March). *The Teacher Leadership in Algebra Training Institute: Lessons learned pre- and post-COVID* [Conference session]. National Association for Professional Development Schools Conference, virtual.
- D'Amico, L. K.**, Fan, X., & Linder, S. (2020, October). *Conducting high-quality, multifaceted needs assessments to shape program development, implementation, and evaluation*. [Poster presentation] at the American Evaluation Association Conference, virtual.
- Adgerson, A., Baker, M. B., Curcio, R., Guest, J., Roy, G., Thompson, S., D'Amico, L. K., & West, H. (2020, October). *Rural teacher education within the context of virtual space*. Presented at the Professional Development Schools: Southern Regional Vision for Education Conference, virtual.
- D'Amico, L. K.**, Ward, B., Creech, F., Folsom, W., Manoski, B., & Linder, S. (2019, November). *Using teacher/child interaction assessments to examine the success of professional development: The stories of four school district 4K initiatives*. Presented at National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference, Nashville, TN.
- Becton, Y., Bogiages, C., **D'Amico, L. K.**, Jeffries, R., & Lilly, T. (2019, October). *An emerging framework for the Ed.D. activist*. Opening session presentation at the Carnegie Project for the Education Doctorate Convening, Columbia, SC.
- Fan, X., **D'Amico, L. K.**, & Toal-Mandanger, L. (2019, April). *Examining the Teaching Standards 4.0 observational rubric in teacher evaluation: Perceptions and scoring*. Paper presented at American Educational Research Association Conference, Toronto, Canada.
- Fan, X., **D'Amico, L.K.**, & Long, D. (2019, March). *Evaluating school improvement grants: Student outcomes, school climate, and teacher perceptions*. Paper presented at the South Carolina Educators for the Practical Use of Research Conference, Columbia, SC.
- Viviano, C., Smith, J., Caniglin, J., **D'Amico, L. K.**, & Lamb, L. (2018, July). *Moving forward: Insights from Noyce internship programs*. Roundtable presented at the Noyce Summit: National Science Foundation, Washington, DC.
- Jeffries, R. B., Becton, Y., Bogiages, C., **D'Amico, L. K.**, & Tamim, S. (2018, June). *Collaborative working groups: A networked assessment model*. Breakout session presented at the Carnegie Project for the Education Doctorate Convening, Tallahassee, FL.
- Fan, X., **D'Amico, L. K.**, & Grohn, H. B. (2018, April). *Educator perceptions of student learning objectives in evaluating teacher effectiveness*. Poster presented at the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.
- D'Amico, L. K.**, & Cain, J. M. (2017, November). *Developing, selecting, and refining instruments in a mixed methods, multilingual, multicultural evaluation context*. Paper presented at the American Evaluation Association, Washington, DC.
- Moon, A., Fan, X., Cain, J. M., & **D'Amico, L. K.** (2017, November). *Using multiple measures to evaluate program effectiveness: Implications across three standardized literacy assessments*. Paper presented at the American Evaluation Association, Washington, DC.

Prince, G. M., & **D'Amico, L. K.** (2016, October). *Using reliable scales within mixed-method, utilization-focused evaluations*. Ignite session presentation at the American Evaluation Association Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Gaines, S., **D'Amico, L. K.**, Ranade, N., & Fan, X. (2016, February). *Evaluation of The Learning Bridge dual literacy program: Here Comes Kindergarten and Project Summer Stride*. Paper session at the South Carolina Educators for the Practical Use of Research Conference, Columbia, SC.

D'Amico, L. K., Brown, W. H., Greer, F., DiStefano, C., & Miller, K. M. (2016, February). *Early childhood language and literacy assessment: Policies, perceptions, and practices*. Presented at South Carolina Educators for the Practical Use of Research Conference, Columbia, SC.

D'Amico, L. K., Brown, W. H., & Sides, K. (2015, October). *Who's doing what: Understanding early childhood developmental screening*. Presented at Institute for Child Success Research Symposium, Greenville, SC.

Willis, K., Barnett, J. H., **D'Amico, L. K.**, & Kirby, P. C. (2015, April). *Leading by example: Impact evaluation of TAP system across Knox County Schools*. Roundtable presented at the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.

Kirby, P. C., Willis, K., Barnett, J. H., & **D'Amico, L. K.** (2015, April). *High needs, highfliers: The impact of teacher incentive funding across Louisiana*. Poster presented at the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.

D'Amico, L. K., Miller, K. M., & Brown, W. H. (2014). *Infusing special education content in early childhood programs: A partnership between USC and 2-year institutions in South Carolina*. Presented at the South Carolina Educators for the Practical Use of Research Conference, Columbia, SC.

Linder, S. M., Rembert, K., Simpson, A., Ramey, D., Brown, W. H., **D'Amico, L. K.**, & Miller, K. M. (2013, April). *Examining professional development for the early care workforce: A multiphase mixed-methods exploration*. Poster presented at the American Education Research Association Conference, San Francisco, CA.

D'Amico, L. K., & Brown, W. H., (2013, July). *Infusing special education content in teacher preparation programs*. Presented at the Office of Special Education Programs/US Department of Education Conference, Washington, DC.

Googe, H., Brown, W. H., & **D'Amico, L. K.** (2012, November). *Preparing early childhood educators by enhancing pre-service curriculum in early childhood special education*. Presented at National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, Atlanta, GA.

D'Amico, L. K., & James, E. (2011, November). *The role of evaluation in informing program functioning and public perspectives*. Panelist session presentation at American Evaluation Association Conference, Anaheim, CA.

D'Amico, L. K., & Rao, V. (2011, November). *Collaborative evaluation to enhance undergraduate coursework and prepare future leaders*. Roundtable presented at American Evaluation Association Conference, Anaheim, CA.

- D'Amico, L. K.**, Petrulis, R., Bolton-Gary, C. (2012, November). *Evaluating program impact in alignment with cultural expectations of success*. Poster presented at the American Evaluation Association Conference, Anaheim, CA.
- D'Amico, L. K.**, Brown, W. H., Googe, H., & Rao, V. (2012, February). Evaluating the impact of coursework on the preparation of early childhood teachers. Presented at the South Carolina Educators for the Practical Use of Research Conference, Columbia, SC.
- D'Amico, L. K.**, Morgan, G., Pawloski, T., & McWayne, J. (2010, November). *Understanding student mastery of higher education curriculum standards*. Presented at the American Evaluation Association Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- D'Amico, L. K.**, Petrulis, R., Bolton-Gary, C. (2011, February). Effectively understanding and communicating program impact in alignment with expectations of success. Roundtable presented at the South Carolina Educators for the Practical Use of Research Conference, Columbia, SC.
- D'Amico, L. K.**, Pawloski, T., & McWayne, J. (2009, November). *Understanding the effectiveness of higher education coursework in preparing teachers for the profession*. Presented at the American Evaluation Association Conference, Orlando, FL.
- D'Amico, L. K.**, & Yap, C. C. (2009, June). *Examining the impact of training in effectively implementing a standardized professional development curriculum*. Poster presented at the Institute of Education Sciences Research Conference, Washington, DC.
- Morgan, G., **D'Amico, L. K.**, & Hardee, S. (2009, April). *Improving teacher assessment knowledge and practices: Understanding the forces for and against educational change*. Presented at the American Educational Research Association Conference, San Diego, CA.
- D'Amico, L. K.**, & Schneider, C. (2008, November). *Longitudinal evaluation of a professional development program: Lessons learned*. Paper presented at the American Evaluation Association Conference, Denver, CO.
- D'Amico, L. K.** (2008, March). *Impact of educational accountability on K-2 teaching practices in primary and elementary schools*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Conference, New York, NY.
- D'Amico, L. K.**, & Peng, P. (2007, November). *Implications of arts programming characteristics on student achievement*. Presented at the American Evaluation Association Conference, Baltimore, MD.
- Pearsall, T., Lewis, A., **D'Amico, L. K.**, Yap, C. C., & Dickenson, T. (2007, April). *Measuring fidelity of implementation of a coach-based professional development model*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Jeffries, R. B., **D'Amico, L. K.**, & Connolly, R. (2006, November). *Testing for test's sake: Examining diverse means for predicting student success in a doctoral program focused on diversity*. Presented at American Educational Studies Association Conference, Spokane, WA.

D'Amico, L. K. (2005, November). *An examination of the inclusion of appropriate and effective practices in the multiple domains of development for educators in P-12 learning environments*. Presented at American Educational Studies Association Conference, Charlottesville, VA.

TEACHING

2017-Present **Instructor, University of South Carolina-Columbia**
EDCS 823: Curriculum Inquiry (ongoing; Fall 2017-present)
EDCS 899: Dissertation Preparation (ongoing; Fall 2017-present)

2017-Present **Dissertation Chair, Curriculum Studies**

2025

- Whitney Cherekos
- Mary Ellis Glymph
- Stephanie Harbulak-Barron
- Calvin Joyner

2024

- Melissa Andrews¹
- Josie Ivey
- Michelle Lloyd Peay
- Angela Pilson

2022

- Jessica Austin
- Fletcher Bowden
- Tara Cunningham Cantey
- Amia Dixon
- Renee Elmore
- Ella Fortin
- Malisa Johnson
- Kristy Garrett
- Matthew Griffith
- Helen Hutsell
- Joanne Martin
- Karen Martin
- Annabelle Merg
- Jennifer Norman
- Dylan Orot
- Lisa Peterson
- Frederico Rowe
- Rebekah Rowland
- Mujtahid Subagyo

¹ Dissertation of the Year, University of South Carolina, Curriculum Studies

2020

- Brooke Rowe
- Aaron Shaw
- Michele Trevino

2019

- Dina Crislip
- Kristin Davis
- Alison Espinosa
- Alexandra Jenkins
- Joseph Marangell
- Stacy Payne Martin²
- Deanna Westedt

2018

- Barbara Cifaldi
- Kendra Cooper
- John Corral
- Megan DeWeese
- Dora Fletcher
- Christine Gray
- Dawn Lawson
- Anna Morrison
- Sarah Owen
- Danielle Sullivan
- Christopher Turpin

SERVICE

Service to the Profession

Leadership, Boards, and Editorial Reviews

- US Department of Health and Human Services: Administration for Children and Families Research Partnership Grant Leadership Team (2024-present)
- South Carolina Preschool Development Grant Leadership Team (2020-present)
- South Carolina Alternative Methodologies Child Care Scholarship Team (2023-2024)
- Advisory Board, Reach Out and Read of the Carolinas, Virginia, and District of Columbia (2017-2024)
- Invited Participant, Institute of Museum and Library Sciences SC Community Catalyzing Group (2019)
- Early Childhood Committee, SC Council on Competitiveness (2015-2018)
- Advisor, UNC Charlotte Early Childhood Paraprofessional Project funded by USDE (2011-2017)
- Early Childhood Education Committee, Midlands Technical College (2013-2015)
- K-3 Formative Assessment State Team (South Carolina) BUILD Initiative (2012)
- Advisory Committee Member, Quality Benchmarks for Cultural Competence, National Association for the Education of Young Children (2009-2012)

² award for dissertation by Consortium for Research on Education Assessment & Teaching Effectiveness

- Board Member, SC Association for the Education of Young Children (2008-2009)
- Grant Proposal Reviewer (Invited)
 - U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs
 - Higher Education Teacher Preparation Grants, May 2023
 - Higher Education Teacher Preparation Grants, September 2018
 - Higher Education Teacher Preparation Grants, May 2013
 - Higher Education Teacher Preparation Grants, July 2011

Manuscript Reviewer

- *Educational Evaluation and Research*
- *Exceptional Children*
- *Evaluation and Program Planning*
- *International Journal of STEM Education*
- *Journal of Early Childhood Research*
- *National Network for Educational Renewal Journal*
- *NHSA: Dialog*
- *Rowman and Littlefield*
- *SAGE Publications*
- *Urban Education*

Research and Evaluation Consultation

Rowan University: Grow New Jersey Kids (2024-present)

- Provide consultation on evaluation of professional development for early childhood educators
- Develop, administer, and analyze surveys, focus groups, and interviews with stakeholders

Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty (2008-present)

Francis Marion University: Florence, SC

- Oversee a research agenda focused on effective teacher preparation
- Develop student assessments, surveys, and other instruments
- Assist with the collection and interpretation of data and the dissemination of results

Winthrop University (2015-present)

- Collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative data on cohorts of participants
- Consult on program revisions and improvements to increase effective teachers

University of Kansas (2014-2017)

- Consulted on SWIFT rubric validation study and became certified SWIFT rater
- Evaluated schools using SWIFT rubric in Maryland school districts

South Carolina Department of Education (2011-2016)

- Evaluated the impact of South Carolina System for Teacher and Student Advancement

National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (2011-2016)

- Evaluated the impact of Knox County (TN) System for Teacher and Student Advancement

Institute for Child Success (2014-2015)

- Developed and analyzed survey about early childhood developmental screening in South Carolina

South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (2014-2015)

- Served as consultant for conceptual framework for Child Development Education Program (4K)

Midlands Middle College (2010)

Lexington School District 1: Lexington, SC

- Conducted external evaluation as required by the U.S. Department of Education

South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness (2008-2010)

- Provided consultation on the evaluation of early childhood strategies
- Worked to enhance data collection and analysis at the state and local levels

National Association for the Education of Young Children (2009-2010)

- Consulted on the evaluation of the *Quality Benchmarks for Cultural Competence*

Service to the University and College of Education

- USC National Fellowships & Scholars Prog.: Graduate Research Fellowship Committee (2016-present)
- USC Research Consortium on Children and Families (2013-present)
- USC Undergraduate Honors Thesis Reader (2024-present)
- USC College of Education Independent Study Facilitator, doctoral students (2021 & 2024)
- USC Leadership, Learning Design, and Inquiry Summer Research Funding Reviewer (2025)
- USC Instruction and Teacher Education Co-Chair Tenure-Track Faculty Search Committee (2022-2023)
- USC Instruction and Teacher Education Professional Faculty Tenure/Promotion Committee (2022-2024)
- USC Curriculum Studies, Program Steering Committee (2020-present)
- USC Curriculum Studies, Admissions Review Committee (2017-present)
- USC Curriculum Studies, Dissertation Handbook Committee (2020)
- USC Instruction and Teacher Education Professional Faculty Annual Review Committee (2020)
- USC Carnegie Project for the Education Doctorate Opening Session Convening Committee (2019)
- USC Curriculum Studies, Chapters 1-3 Dissertation in Practice Committee (2017-2018)
- USC Service on Dissertation Committees (Completed by Year):

2025

- Manuel Acuna, Curriculum Studies
- Jennifer Brown, Curriculum Studies
- Melinda Burnette, Curriculum Studies
- Felicia Butler, Curriculum Studies
- Brooke Clayton, Curriculum Studies
- Margaret Denning, Curriculum Studies
- Lana Elkins, Curriculum Studies
- Kayla Eller, STEM Education
- Sara Garrett, Curriculum Studies
- Briana Gomez, Curriculum Studies
- Michele Honeycutt, Curriculum Studies
- Noha Ibrahim, Curriculum Studies
- Jaime Krause, STEM Education

- Alesha Love, Curriculum Studies
- Theodore Martinez, Curriculum Studies
- Jessica Morey, Curriculum Studies
- Heather Palmer, Curriculum Studies
- DeOnna Reliford, Curriculum Studies
- Emily Robinette, Curriculum Studies
- Amanda Shankle-Erdman, Curriculum Studies
- Latasha Smart, Curriculum Studies
- Akella Srinivas, Curriculum Studies
- Pamela Wilson, Curriculum Studies
- Heather Wyman, Curriculum Studies
- Maura Yinger, STEM Education

2024

- Richelle Battles, Curriculum Studies
- Kourtney Chapman, Curriculum Studies
- Molly Hamel, Curriculum Studies
- Jason Koepke, Education Leadership
- Elisa Malinovitz, Curriculum Studies
- Amanda McClain, Curriculum Studies
- Gabriel Chen Rodriguez, Curriculum Studies
- Allison Vild, Curriculum Studies
- Taylor Williams, Curriculum Studies
- Katey Bailey, Curriculum Studies
- Betsy Bedell, Curriculum Studies
- Jamie Blau, Curriculum Studies
- Dana Delpha, Curriculum Studies
- Natasia Gregory, Curriculum Studies
- Alissa Lockwood, STEM Education
- Kristy Martin, Curriculum Studies
- Beverly Owens Quinn, STEM Education
- Tameika Valentine, Curriculum Studies

2023

- Kyle Anderson, Curriculum Studies
- Theresa Garcia, Curriculum Studies
- Heather Henderson, Curriculum Studies
- Molly Higbie, Curriculum Studies
- Charrai Hunter, Curriculum Studies
- Karen Kelly, Curriculum Studies
- Cicely Maxwell, Curriculum Studies
- Robyn Perneti, Curriculum Studies
- Celestine Pough, Curriculum Studies
- Jennifer Wells, Curriculum Studies
- William Whitmire, Curriculum Studies
- Charity Scruggs Brady, Curriculum Studies
- Sahalja Dentico, Curriculum Studies
- Shalonya Knotts, Curriculum Studies

- Whitney McPherson, Curriculum Studies
- Scott Nolt, Curriculum Studies
- Jullian Plum , Curriculum Studies
- Tiffany Robles, Curriculum Studies
- Shalanda Shuler, Curriculum Studies
- Kelley Spahr, Curriculum Studies
- Kristi Bissell, Curriculum Studies
- Stanley Cradock, Curriculum Studies
- Kate Currie, Curriculum Studies
- Maria Halkias, Curriculum Studies
- Lisa Johnson, Curriculum Studies
- Michelle Koehle, Curriculum Studies
- Kathi Maxwell, Curriculum Studies
- Ada Sindab, Education Leadership

2022

- M. Katie Brasche, Curriculum Studies
- Russell Clark, Curriculum Studies
- Amanda Dixon, Curriculum Studies
- Herbert Gray, Curriculum Studies
- Samuel Lackey, Curriculum Studies
- Dylan Muzny, Curriculum Studies
- Jennifer Ochwo, Curriculum Studies
- Stacy Phaxaysithideth, Curriculum Studies
- Scott Sutherland, Curriculum Studies

2021

- Blake Alspach, Curriculum Studies
- Lisa Alves, Curriculum Studies
- John Borman, Curriculum Studies
- Lisa Cobb, Curriculum Studies
- Paul Hammond IV, Curriculum Studies
- Shannon Holmes, Curriculum Studies
- John Kiser, Curriculum Studies
- Georgette Leslie, Curriculum Studies
- Paulette Mizzell, Curriculum Studies
- Charles Reed, Curriculum Studies
- Katrina Rouse, Curriculum Studies
- Matthew Sterner-Neely, Curriculum Studies
- Amy Waddell, Curriculum Studies
- Krystin Williams, Curriculum Studies
- James Winfield, Curriculum Studies
- Anne Marie Yarborough, Curriculum Studies

2020

- Nevermind Chigoba, Teaching and Learning
- Xumei Fan, Education Research

- Victoria Gelbert, Curriculum Studies
- Donna Grant, Curriculum Studies
- Jennifer Ledbetter, Curriculum Studies
- Elizabeth Ross, Curriculum Studies
- Kim Tiedemann, Curriculum Studies

2019

- Bree Lauffner, Curriculum Studies
- Andrew Miller, Curriculum Studies
- Lorelei Ross, Curriculum Studies
- Holeness Samuels, Curriculum Studies
- Jodi Zeis, Teaching and Learning

2018

- Jonnell Atkins, Curriculum Studies
- Susan Burnett, Curriculum Studies
- Krista Cornehl, Curriculum Studies
- Lexie Feldman, Curriculum Studies
- Madeline Fletcher, Curriculum Studies
- Anne Waters Hartwell, Curriculum Studies
- Anna Hasenkamp, Curriculum Studies
- Heather Holmes, Curriculum Studies
- Erika Patterson, Curriculum Studies
- Scott Weimer, Curriculum Studies
- Windy Sizemore, Curriculum Studies
- Rebecca Spenser, Teaching and Learning
- Charles Treado, Curriculum Studies
- Angela Vincent, Curriculum Studies

Service to the Community

- Student Visionaries Charlotte Advisory Committee, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (2023-2024)
- Mentor, Master of Public Administration Program, UNC Charlotte (2020-present)
- Member, Charlotte Evaluator's Group (2016-present)
- Children's Theater of Charlotte, ENCORE Volunteer Group (2015-2018)
- North Star Literacy Tutor, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (2016-2017)
- International Baccalaureate Panel, School Review at Cotswold Elementary (2018)
- International Baccalaureate Lesson Team, Cotswold Elementary (2015-2016)
- Mecklenburg Partnership for Children, Annual Review Committee (2012-2014)