

Dr. Alma L. Contreras-Vanegas, PhD.
Associate Professor, School of Teaching and Learning
College of Education
Sam Houston State University

Office Address

[Redacted Office Address]

Education

Texas A&M University, College Station, TX	Ph.D.	2011
Texas A&M University, College Station, TX	M.Ed.	2007
Texas A&M University, College Station, TX	B.A.	2004

Professional Licensure

2004	EC-4 Texas Teaching Credential in Regular, Bilingual and ESL Education, Region IV, Houston TX
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Academic Positions

2021-2024	Associate Professor at Sam Houston State University. Teach graduate and undergraduate courses for the College of Education. School of Teaching and Learning.
2013-2020	Assistant Professor at Sam Houston State University. Taught graduate and undergraduate courses for the College of Education. Language, Literacy and Special Populations (LLSP)/School of Teaching and Learning (SOTL).
2012	Assistant Lecturer at Texas A&M University. Taught undergraduate courses for the Department of Educational Psychology/Bilingual Programs, College of Education and Human Development, Texas A&M University. Recruitment and International Experience (Spring and Fall 2012)

- 2012 Pool faculty at Sam Houston State University. Taught undergraduate courses for the College of Education, Department of Language, Literacy and Special Populations.
- 2010-2012 Bilingual student teachers' field supervisor. Department of Educational Psychology/Bilingual Programs, College of Education and Human Development, Texas A&M University.
- 2008-2012 -Taught Bilingual Certification Prep Course and ESL Certification Prep Course (on-line). Department of Educational Psychology/Bilingual Programs, College of Education and Human Development, Texas A&M University.
- 2011 - Graduate Teacher Assistant Dr. Fuhui Tong. Taught graduate course in the Department of Educational Psychology/Bilingual Programs, College of Education and Human Development, Texas A&M University.
BIED 617 Evaluation of programs.
- 2010-2011-Graduate Teacher Assistant for Dr. Miranda Walichowski. Taught undergraduate courses in the Department of Educational Psychology/Bilingual Programs, College of Education and Human Development, Texas A&M University.
- 2007-2008 3rd grade bilingual teacher, self-contained, Spring ISD, Texas.
- 2006-2007 3rd grade bilingual teacher, Language Arts/Social Studies teacher, Cypress Fairbanks ISD, Texas.
- 2004-2006 2nd grade bilingual teacher, self-contained, Bryan ISD, Texas.

Dissertation

The psychometric properties of the Hispanic Bilingual Gifted Screening Instrument (HBGSI).
Doctoral dissertation. Texas A&M University (October 14, 2011).

Research/Grant Funding

Funded

- 2023 Urban Agribusiness Ventures to Connect and Engage our Hispanic Community 2023.
(Proposal submitted for BRIDGE Program (*Building Research, Innovation, Discovery, and Growing Engagement*, Amt. \$101,023) (Co-investigator)
- 2016 Enrichment Grant, Spring 2016 (\$500) for Featured Speaker at the Joan Prouty Conference

College of Education Faculty Research Grants Fund 2016 (\$2000) for transcription of research data (Co-investigator)

2015 Communicative responsivity of Latina caregivers and their young children with developmental delays 2015. (Proposal submitted for *SHSU Enhancement Research Grant*, Amt. \$15,000). Research has IRB approval received (Co-investigator).

Enrichment Grant, Fall 2015 (\$500) for Presenting research at the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Conference

College of Education Faculty Research Grants Fund 2015 (\$3000) for conducting research in Belize (Co-investigator)

Enrichment Grant, Spring 2015 (\$500) for Presenting research at the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) Conference

Enrichment Grant, Spring 2015 (\$500) for Featured Speaker at the Joan Prouty Conference

Publications: Refereed Journals

- Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.,** Godwin, A., & Blackwell, W. (2023) Exploring ableism through teacher identity and empowerment: Teaching about disability through a campus common reader. *School Leadership Review*, 18(1) Article 6, 1-10.
- Vargas, M., **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.,** Usero-Gonzales, F. (2023). Cultivating language proficiency and intercultural competence among educators through book club social interactions. *The Texas Forum of Teacher Education*.
- Blackwell, W., Uzum, B. & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.** (2023) Preparing teachers for inclusive education: Examining identity and agency of teacher candidates in a year-long residency model. *The Texas Forum of Teacher Education*.
- Godwin, A. J., & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.** (2022) Embracing our campus quilt. *The Texas Forum of Teacher Education*, 12, 78-84.
- Stockall, N., Cole, C. V., & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.** (2020). Behavioral signs of cerebral visual impairment in very low birth weight infants. *Journal of Occupational Therapy, Schools, & Early Intervention* (p. 1-15). <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/wjot20>
- Contreras-Vanegas, A.** & Petró, M. (2019). Children of immigration: Working with undocumented families. *READ Journal*.
- Stockall, N., Cole, C. V., & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.** (2018). Waiting for Godot: Three case studies of Latina mothers and their toddlers with communication delays. *Scholar-Practitioner Quarterly*, Vol. 11 (1-4).
- Contreras-Vanegas, A.** (2018). Bilingual education for children with disabilities: A mother's

perspective. *Perspectives: A Publication of the National Association for Bilingual Education*.

- Ates, B., & **Contreras-Vanegas, A. L.** (2016). Review of the book *The Sociolinguistics of Digital Englishes* by P. Freidrich & E. H. Diniz Figueiredo. *READ Journal*, 1(3).
- Stockall, N., Cole, C.V. & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** (2016). Responsividad materna: Estudio mono-casuístico de una madre latina y su hija con retrasos de desarrollo. *Journal of Bilingual Education Research & Instruction* 18(1).
- Petrón, M. & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** (2016). Jugar y aprender- Play and learn: First language literacy and parent involvement. *READ: An Online Journal for Literacy Educators*.
- Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** & Petró, M. (2015). Helping teachers identify English Language Learners (ELLs) for gifted and talented programs in Texas. *TexELT: Texas English Language Teaching*, 4(1), 6-14
- Petrón, M. & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** (2014). Let common sense prevail: Differentiating spelling lists for English Language Learners in early grades. *Advocate: A journal for education and advocacy for young children*, 33(1).
- Henderson, C. M., Tippens, C.L., & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** (2013). But I don't speak Spanish! Monolingual teachers of dual language learners. *Advocate: A journal for education and advocacy for young children*, 32(2).
- Contreras-Vanegas, A. L.**, Lara-Alecio, R., Tong, F., Irby, B. & Durodola, S. (2012). The inter-rater reliability of the Hispanic Bilingual Gifted Screening Instrument (HBGSI). *Forum of Applied Educational Research Journal*, 25(3).

Accepted

- Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** Tips for educators working with dual-identified English learners. *Journal of Universality of Global Education Issues*.

Under Review

- Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.**, Uzum, W., & Blackwell, W. "I Will Always Look Out for My Students' Best Interests": Teacher Candidates' Identity and Agency in a Year-Long Residency Program.

Publications: Non-refereed

- Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** & Brown, L. (2023). Five visual strategies for emergent bilinguals in agricultural classrooms. *Ag Education Magazine*.
- Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.**, Uzum, B. & Blackwell, W. (July, 2022). PACE: Steps for equitable outcomes for ELs. *TESOL Connections: Keeping English Language Professionals Connected*.
- Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** & Cole, C. (February, 2022). Helping prepare your bilingual child

- with developmental delays (DD) for school. *Exceptional Parent (EP) Magazine*.
- Uzum, B. & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** (2020). 4 Factors to develop language proficiency FAST. *TESOL Connections: Keeping English Language Professionals Connected*.
- Ray, A. & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** (February, 2020). Engaging Els in mathematics with number talks. Manuscript submitted for publication. *TESOL Connections Quick Tips*.
- Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** (2017). 5 Ways to Communicate with Student's Parents. *TABE BESO Tips*.
- McGowan, T. & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** (September, 2016). Matemática emergente para niños pre-escolares. *TABE Newsletter*, 27(3).
- Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** & Petró, M. (June, 2016). El libro ideal para su hijo/a. *TABE Newsletter*, 27(2).
- Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** & Ates, B. (January, 2016). 7 Ways to Get ELLs Talking. *TESOL Connections Quick Tips*.
- Rivera, V. & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** (January, 2016). BESO Tip Pre-referral. *TABE BESO Tips*.
- Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** & Berg, H. (December, 2015). Aprendiendo con los cinco sentidos. *TABE Newsletter*, 26(5).
- Petrón, M. & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** (September, 2015). Una semana de actividades. *TABE Newsletter*, 26(4), p 5.
- Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** (2014). Individualized spelling list for English language learners (ELLs). *TESOL Connections Quick Tips*.

Accepted

- Contreras-Vanegas, A.** Learning at home with your bilingual child with developmental delays (DD) for school. *Exceptional Parent (EP) Magazine*.

Under Review

- Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** & Brown, L. Strategies in speaking and listening for multilingual learners (MLs) in agricultural classrooms.

Professional Presentations at the National/International Conferences

2024

- Blackwell, W., **Contreras-Vanegas, A.**, & Uzum, B. (2024, March). *Preparing inclusive educators: Examining identity and agency of teacher candidates*. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Council for Exceptional Children, San Antonio, TX.

2023

- Uzum, B., **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** & Blackwell, W. (2023, February). Addressing the needs of ESL and SPED students together. Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Conference.
- Blackwell, W., **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.**, & Uzum, B. (2023, February). Preparing Candidates

to Provide Literacy Instruction in Inclusive Classrooms. Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Conference.

2022

Contreras-Vanegas, A.L. & Cole, C. (2022, February). A Latina Mother's Quest Narrative Advocating for Bilingualism for her Daughter with Disabilities. National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) Conference.

Contreras-Vanegas, A.L., Uzum, B. & Blackwell, W. (2022, February). Preparing teacher candidates to provide equal education for ELs who may also have a disability. National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) Conference.

Contreras-Vanegas, A.L., Uzum, B. & Blackwell, W. (2022, February). Preparing Candidates to Provide Literacy Instruction in Inclusive Classrooms. Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Conference.

2021

Contreras-Vanegas, A.L. & Cole, C. (2021, December). A Latina Mother of a Child with Disabilities: Advocacy/change presented at The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps (TASH) Conference.

Contreras-Vanegas, A.L. (2021, February). Screening for Potential Gifted and Talented ELLs with the HBGSI, presented at Teachers of English for Students of Other Languages (TESOL) Conference.

2020

Sehlaoui, A.S. & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** (2020, February). Developing English Learners' Multiple Literacies in STEM via CALL: A Critical Pedagogical Approach. National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada.

2019

Stockall, N., **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** & Cole, C. (2019, October). Navigating Crucial Conversations with Hispanic/Latino Families. Division for Early Childhood (DEC) Conference, Dallas, Texas.

Stockall, N., Cole, C. & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** (2019, January). Behavioral Signs of Cerebral Visual Impairment in Very Low Birth Weight Toddlers. Council for Exceptional Children Division on Autism & Developmental Disabilities (DADD), Maui, Hawaii.

2018

Contreras-Vanegas, A.L., Stockall, N. & Cole, C. (2018, February). Latina caregiver responsivity towards toddlers with communication delays in Spanish and/or English. presented at National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

2017

Contreras-Vanegas, A.L. & Berg, H. (2017, February). Is it language acquisition or a learning disability? presented at National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) Conference, Dallas, Texas.

2016

Ates, B., Berg, H. & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** (2016, April). International Service Learning of US in-service teachers teaching EFL, presented at Teachers of English for Students of Other Languages (TESOL) Conference, Baltimore, Maryland.

Contreras-Vanegas, A.L., Uzum, B. & Lobo Guerrero DeSaba, C. (2016, April). Does the

- HBGSI help improve the identification of ELs? presented at Teachers of English for Students of Other Languages (TESOL) Conference, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Berg, H. & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** (2016, April). Linguistic Differences or an Indication of a Reading Disability, presented at Teachers of English for Students of Other Languages (TESOL) Conference, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Stockall, N., **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** & Cole, C. (2016, March). Latina Caregiver Responsivity towards their Young Children with Language Delays, presented at National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) Conference, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2015
- Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** & Cole, C. (2015, March). Math and Reading Intervention Strategies for ELLs with Disabilities, presented at National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.**, Cox, D. & Berg, H. (2015, February). The Book Thief by Markus Zusak book share, presented at Association of Teacher Educators (ATE), Phoenix, Arizona.
- Berg, H., Cox, D. & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** (2015, February). Dilemma Activity: Ties that bind: strengthening reading relationships outside the classroom. How do we develop and maintain long term relationships with former students? Presented at Association of Teacher Educators (ATE), Phoenix, Arizona.
- 2014
- Ates, B., Petró, M. & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** (2014, March). NES Preservice Teachers and NNESTs: Critical Study on Advocacy, presented at Teachers of English for Students of Other Languages (TESOL) Conference, Portland, Oregon.
- Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** (2014, March). Identifying gifted ELLs with the Hispanic Bilingual Gifted Screening Instrument, presented at Teachers of English for Students of Other Languages (TESOL) Conference, Portland, Oregon.
- 2013
- Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.**, Fuhui Tong, & Irby, B. (2013, February). Identifying Elementary Hispanic Gifted Students Utilizing the Hispanic Bilingual Gifted Screening Instrument (HBGSI), presented at National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) Conference, Orlando, Florida.
- Walichowski, M., & **Contreras-Vanegas, A. L.** (2013, February). Innovative Ways of Using Technology to Engage ELLs in All Grade Level Classrooms, presented at National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) Conference, Orlando, Florida.
- 2012
- Walichowski, M., & **Contreras-Vanegas, A. L.** (2012, February). Using Free Technologies to develop and test field observation instruments, presented at National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) Conference, Dallas, Texas.
- 2011

Contreras-Vanegas, A. L., & Padrón, Y. (2011, February). Empirically- based strategies: The transition of writing from Spanish to English in elementary ELLs, presented at National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Contreras-Vanegas, A. L. (2011, February). Empirically-based strategies: Hispanic bilingual students in need of better identification procedures for the gifted and talented programs, presented at National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE), New Orleans, Louisiana.

2010

Contreras-Vanegas, A. L., & Lara-Alecio, R. (2010, February). The transition of writing from Spanish to English in young English language learners, presented at National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE), Denver, Colorado.

Presentations at the Regional/State/Local level

2023

Contreras-Vanegas, A. & Uzum, B. (2023). Strategies to support EBs and their families. Bring ‘Em Back Kats! (BBK). Huntsville, TX.

Usero-Gonzalez, F., **Contreras-Vanegas, A., & Vargas, M.** (2023). Cultivating language proficiency and intercultural competence. Teaching and Learning Conference.

2022

Contreras-Vanegas, A.L., Duran, J., Nickson, L. & Wentworth, R., (2022, October). Common reader uncommon differentiation: Creating an inclusive opportunity for students to respond to SHSU’s common reader. Consortium of State Organizations for Texas Teacher Education.

Contreras-Vanegas, A.L., Uzum, B., & Blackwell, W. (2022, October). Equipping teacher candidates with strategies to effectively teach ELs who may also have a disability. Texas Association for Bilingual Education (TABE). Houston, TX.

Godwin, A. & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** (2022, March). Our Campus Quilt: Identifying and Embracing Student Global Engagement. Universality of Global Education Conference. Huntsville, TX.

2021

Contreras-Vanegas, A.L. & Uzum, B. (2021, April). Teaching with SIOP. Bring ‘Em Back Kats! (BBK). Huntsville, TX.

2020

Contreras-Vanegas, A.L. & Uzum, B. (2020, September). Teaching with SIOP: Strategies and Family Involvement. Bring ‘Em Back Kats! (BBK). Huntsville, TX.

2019

Stockall, N., Cole, C. & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.L.** (2019, October). Mother responsivity: One case study of a Latina mother and her child with developmental delays, presented College of Education Grant Research Activity and Creativity Exposition (GRACE), Huntsville, TX. 2018

Contreras-Vanegas, A. & Uzum, B. (2018, Oct.). SIOP Content and language objectives for ELLs. Bring 'Em Back Kats. Huntsville, TX.

Contreras-Vanegas, A. & Petró, M. (2018, August). Teaching English language learners with SIOP. Bring 'Em Back Kats. Huntsville, TX.

Petrón, M., Berg, H. & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.** (2018, February). But they don't speak English: Working with English Language Learners. Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE). Huntsville, TX.

Uzum, B. & **Contreras-Vanegas, A.** (2018, February). Virtual intercultural Exchange and community engagement to prepare teachers for linguistic and cultural diversity. Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE). Huntsville, TX.

Professional Development

Contreras-Vanegas, A.L. (May, 2016). Preschool ELLs' Language and Literacy Development. Early Head Start in College Station ISD.

Dissertation Committees

Gloria Carter

Dissertation: *Perceptions of Secondary Teachers in Rural Schools: Are we Prepared to Effectively Teach English Language Learners?* May 2018

Sekineh Nasiri

Dissertation: *Adult Refugee Language Learners' Perceptions of Participation in Literature Circles to Support Reading Comprehension and Reduce Foreign Language Anxiety* December 2019

Services (SHSU)

2023 University

Member of University Convocations

College

Member of Faculty Awards Committee

Member of Joan Prouty Conference (Spring)

Member of Garrett Center on Transition and Disability Studies Committee (Spring)

Member of Bring Em' Back Katz (Fall)

Member of Undergraduate Professional Concerns Committee

Member of Undergraduate Research

Department

Advisor for Bilingual Education Student Organization (BESO)

Advisor for Bilingual candidates

State

Member of Texas Association for Bilingual Education (TABE) Higher Education Committee

Member of Texas Education Agency (TEA) Bilingual Special Education Educator Standards Advisory Committee

2022 University

Member of University Convocations

College

Member of Faculty Awards Committee

Member for Joan Prouty Conference

Member of Garrett Center on Transition and Disability Studies Committee

Department

Advisor for Bilingual Education Student Organization (BESO)

Advisor for Bilingual candidates

Co-coordinator for the BESL program area (Spring)

State

Member of Texas Association for Bilingual Education (TABE) Higher Education Committee

Member of Texas Education Agency (TEA) Bilingual Special Education Educator Standards Advisory Committee

2021 University

Member in University Convocations (Spring and Fall)

College

Member of Faculty Awards Committee (Spring)

Member for Joan Prouty Conference (Fall and Spring)

Member of Garrett Center on Transition and Disability Studies Committee

Member of DPTAC committee

Member of Undergraduate Research Committee (Fall)

Department

Advisor for Bilingual Education Student Organization (BESO) (Spring and Fall)

Advisor for Bilingual candidates

Co-coordinator for the BESL program area

2020 University

Member in Excellence in Teaching Committee (Spring and Fall)

Member in University Convocations (Spring and Fall)

College

Member of Faculty Awards Committee (Spring)

Member for Joan Prouty Conference (Fall and Spring)

Member of DFES committee (Fall)

Member of Garrett Center on Transition and Disability Studies Committee

Department

Editorial board member for the Journal *READ: An Online Journal for Literacy Educators* (Spring and Fall)

Advisor for Bilingual Education Student Organization (BESO) (Spring and Fall)

Courses Recently Taught

Undergraduate

BESL 3301 Language Acquisition Theory for Second Language Learners

BESL 4303 Curriculum in Bilingual and ESL Education programs

BESL 4304 Spanish Oral Language and Reading Development

BESL 4305 Academic Language in Dual Language Programs

BESL 5312 Second Language Literacy

TESL 3313 ESL Methodology I

TESL 4314 ESL Methodology II

Graduate

BESL 5304 Second Language Acquisition and Development

BESL 5311 Applied Linguistics in ESL-EFL Settings

BESL 6325 Teaching Second Language Writing

Professional Memberships

2013-2023 Teachers of English for Students Of other Languages (TESOL)

2010-2023 National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE)

2009-2023 Texas Association for Bilingual Education (TABE)

Awards/Recognitions

2022 Nominated for the Center for Community Engagement (CCE) Fellow's program

2019 SHSU College of Education Faculty Excellence Award Winner for outstanding accomplishments in the area of Inclusion

- 2013Received Honorable Mention on my dissertation by The National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) Outstanding Dissertation Award Committee
- 2011Two award-winning posters at Student Research Week: session winner and overall subject area. The presentation titled “Current identification procedures for the gifted and talented Spanish speaking elementary students” was presented at Student, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas
- 2008-2011Graduate Diversity Fellowship (10,000 per semester)
- 2006-2007Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers

Professional Interest

- Bilingual children with disabilities
- Bilingual Gifted and Talented
- Bilingual/ESL/Dual Language Education
- Teacher/Pre-service Teacher Preparation
- Second Language Acquisition

Academic Languages

English and Spanish: fluent in listening, speaking, reading, and writing