

# Rebecca B. Smith Hill, PhD, MSW

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## CURRICULUM VITA

### Education

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**Doctor of Philosophy in Special Education**, Department of Educational Studies, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. Major field: Transition. March 2023  
**Project Fusion Scholar: *Preparing Special Education Leaders with a Focus on Research to Practice in Transition***, Department of Educational Studies, University of South Carolina, 2019-2023

**Master of Social Work**, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. Professional specialization: Macro Social Work. May 2007

18 Hours of Master's Level Work in Special Education  
University of South Carolina and San Jose State University, August 2001- June 2004

**Bachelor of Arts, Psychology and Education**, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA. June 2001

### Certifications

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***South Carolina Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Long-Term Trainee (SC LEND)*** 2024

*University 101 Teaching Experience Workshop*, USC 2023

*Teaching Assistant Development* certificate, USC 2021

*Teaching Towards Inclusive Excellence (TTIE)* certificate, USC 2020

Publons Academy *Practical Peer Review* certificate 2020

*South Carolina Teaching License*  
Elementary Education and Special Education: Intellectual Disabilities (Expiration: June 30, 2027)

### Professional Experience

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**SC Inclusive Postsecondary Education Consortium, Program Coordinator (SCIPSEC)** 2024-present

University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC

**Center for Transition Research and Leadership, Associate Director** 2023-present  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC

**Assistant Director of Campus & Community Engagement** 2022-2024  
CarolinaLIFE, University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC

- Lead communications with CarolinaLIFE families, including semesterly updates, annual meetings with each family, as well as day-to-day interactions
- Plan and facilitate CarolinaLIFE student and staff orientations at the beginning of each semester
- Facilitate and maintain relationships with USC campus entities including but not limited to Housing, Residence Life, Student Health Center, Transportation Services, Mail Services, Gamecock Pantry
- Facilitate and maintain relationships with community entities and resources including but not limited to COMET bus system, DART transportation, ABLE SC
- Supervise the CarolinaLIFE Resident Coaching team
- Supervise the CarolinaLIFE Personal Development team
- Supervise up to 4 MSW field placement students annually
- Teach small group life-skills courses each semester including *Senior & Junior Exit Planning, Healthy Relationships, & Agency in College*
- Oversee the Exit Planning process for program Juniors and Seniors & supervise the Junior/Senior Exit Planning Coach

**Adjunct Special Education Faculty** EDEX 205: Understanding the Foundations of Disability; EDEX 523: Introduction to Exceptional Children; EDEX 762: Career and Employment Development for Adults with Disabilities  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC 2021- present

**University 101 Professor** 2023-present  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** EDEX 523: Introduction to Exceptional Children  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC Fall 2020; Spring 2022

**Grants Reviewer, SC Department of Education** 2021  
Columbia, SC

**Teacher, Self-Contained, Moderate Intellectual Disabilities, Grades 9-12+**  
Richland County School District One, Dreher High School  
Columbia, SC 2015 – 2019

**Adjunct Social Work Faculty**

University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC

2008- 2015

**Teacher, Middle & High School (English, Psychology, Reading)**

Sandhills School  
Columbia, SC

2014 - 2015

**Director of Grants & Special Projects**

Trinity Housing Corporation, St. Lawrence Place  
Columbia, SC

2008-2014

**Program Director, Homefront Readiness**

Fast Forward Community Technology Center  
Columbia, SC

2007 - 2008

**Science Quest Coordinator**

Fast Forward Community Technology Center  
Columbia, SC

2004 -2007

**Assistant Director, Technology Summer Camps**

Fast Forward Community Technology Center  
Columbia, SC

2005 - 2007

**MSW Graduate Assistant**

St. Lawrence Place  
Columbia, SC

2006 - 2007

**Teacher, Self-Contained Mild Intellectual Disabilities, Grades 6-8**

Richland County School District One, Hand Middle School  
Columbia, SC

2002-2005

**Teacher, Self-Contained Mild Intellectual Disabilities, Grades 6-8**

Santa Clara Unified School District, Buchser Middle School  
Santa Clara, CA

2001-2002

**Additional Diversity/Disabilities Experience**

- Summer Camp Counselor at Camp Burnt Gin, Sumter, SC; 1999-2001  
cared for and provided camp programming for children ages 6-18 with developmental,  
intellectual, and physical disabilities in a sleep-away summer camp setting

**Graduate Assistantship**

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**Program Coordinator**

CarolinaLIFE, University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC

2019- 2022

- supervised up to 10 graduate and undergraduate student employees per semester

- taught small group life-skills courses including *Introduction to Healthy Relationships & Agency in College*
- co-wrote a College Agency Framework of supports
- created a scope and sequence of courses related to healthy relationships, nutrition and overall wellness
- developed syllabi, key assessments, and assignments for courses
- created and implemented a new course, *Agency in College*
- fostered relationships with IPSE students and their families
- assisted in various research-related and grant-writing related endeavors

### **Awards & Scholarships**

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- *Megan Cartier Early Career Scholar Award* recipient; a State of the Art Leadership in Inclusive Postsecondary Education Award, 2024
- *SC Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (SC LEND) Advocacy Project Award* recipient, 2023-24
- *Outstanding Staff Partner Award within the Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support* nominee, University of South Carolina, 2023-24
- *M. Stuart Hunter Award for Outstanding Teaching in University 101* nominee, University of South Carolina, 2023; 2024
- *Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) Patricia L. Sitlington Research Award Nominee*, 2nd Runner Up, 2023
- *Outstanding Special Education Doctoral Student Researcher Award*, University of South Carolina College of Education, 2022-2023
- Co-recipient *College of Education Equity and Justice Advocacy Award*, CarolinaLIFE, University of South Carolina, 2021-2022
- *Nelle Taylor Scholarship in Special Education*, University of South Carolina Department of Education Studies, 2021-2022; 2020-2021
- *Bryant A. & Jacqueline F. Meeks Scholarship*, University of South Carolina Department of Education Studies, 2021-2022
- **2015-2016 Dreher High School Teacher of the Year**

### **Publications (refereed)**

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Plotner, A. J., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Walters, C. W., & Shoemaker, A. (in press). Toward Disability-Led Evaluation: A Continuum Framework for Centering Disability in Evaluation Practice. *American Journal of Evaluation*.

Fields, A. M., Stinnett, C. V., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Rohack, D., & Plotner, A. J. (2026). Evaluating the psychometrics of an adapted version of the Perceived Wellness Survey (PWS) on a sample of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). *Measurement and Evaluation of Counseling and Development*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07481756.2026.2641516>

Fields, A. M., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Lewis, O. J., Castle, M., Gilreath, R., Perez, L. M., Reynolds, M., Dean, R., & Stinnett, C. V. (2026). Experiences of US college students with intellectual and developmental disabilities developing and maintaining physical wellness. *Journal of Intellectual Disabilities*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/17446295261428179>

**Smith Hill, R. B.** & Stinnett, C. V. (in press). Mental health strategies for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities: A scoping review. *Journal of Postsecondary Education and Disability*.

**Smith Hill, R. B.** & Plotner, A. J. (in press). Insights from using photovoice as a participatory action research method with emerging adults with intellectual disability. *Sage Research Methods: Inclusive Research Methodologies*.

**Smith Hill, R. B.** & Stinnett, C. V. (in press). Making survey data collection more inclusive: Using a card sort method with individuals with intellectual disability. *Sage Research Methods: Inclusive Research Methodologies*.

Fields, A. M., Allard, K. N., Nelson, S., Bichlmeier, S., **Smith Hill, R. B.** & Castle, M. (in press). College students with intellectual and developmental disabilities developing and maintaining social wellness. *Journal of Postsecondary Education and Disability*.

Walters, C., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Waldron, A., Russell, C., Mansour, N., Badger, J., Deibler, E., & Shogren, K. (2025). Reimagining self-determination in research, education, and disability services and supports. *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/10442073251404904>

**Smith Hill, R. B.**, Drew, C., Reynolds, M. A., Sperling, J., Plotner, A. J., & Patten, B. (online, 2025). Parent knowledge and comfortability with sexuality and relationships education for emerging adults with intellectual disability. *Sexuality and Disability*.  
<https://rdcu.be/eNKjf>

Waddington, A. F., Fields, A. M., Schneider, K. M., Fratzke, V., & **Smith Hill, R. B.** (2025). Development of Cultural Bias Awareness Activities for a Counselor Education Diagnostic Course: A Mixed-Methods Feasibility Evaluation. *Journal of Counselor*

*Leadership and Advocacy*. Advanced online publication.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/2326716X.2025.2595680>

**Smith Hill, R. B.**, Carlson, S. R., Hawley, C. E., Oertle, K. M., McCall, C., Armstrong, A., & Plotner, A. J. (2025). Embracing family collaboration: Considerations and practices to enhance outcomes for individuals with disabilities across the lifespan. *Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling*, 56(2).

Fields, A. J., Lewis, O. J., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Reynolds, M., Gilreath, R., & Castle, M. (2025). Suicide prevention and intervention for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities: A practice-based overview. *Current Psychology*.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-025-07900-1>

Plotner, A. J., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Walters, C. B., & Rother, Y. (2025). Contextualizing disability identity in the academic literature: A scoping review. *Identity*, 1–14.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/15283488.2025.2481133>

Oertle, K. M., McCall, C., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Hawley, C. E., Marrero-Irizarry, J., & Corbin II, J. E. (2025). “She said my name”: Reconstructing agency, identity, and disability with Judith (Judy) E. Heumann. *Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling*, 56(2).

Walters, C., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Plotner, A. J., & Springgate, A. (2025). Special education professional perspectives on challenges to supporting youth with disabilities and their families into legal adulthood. *Education and Training in Autism and Developmental Disabilities*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/215416472506000104>

**Smith Hill, R. B.**, Fields, A. M., Lewis, O. J., Castle, M., VanHorn Stinnett, C., Plotner, A. J., & Gilreath, R. (2025). Counselor education and inclusive postsecondary education: A partnership model and reflections to support counselor disability competency. *Teaching & Supervision in Counseling*.

Fields, A. M., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Lewis, O. J., Castle, M., & Perez, L. M. (2025). Initial evidence for personal development support for college students with intellectual and developmental disabilities: Results from a satisfaction survey. *Journal of Inclusive Postsecondary Education*. <https://doi.org/10.13021/jipe.2024.4105>

Castle, M., Gilreath, R., Fields, A. M., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Sookwah, R. D., Burdiss, A., & Ohrt, J. H. (2025). A wellness group protocol for college students with intellectual or developmental disability: a pilot study. *Journal for Specialists in Group Work*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01933922.2024.2440461>

Fields, A. M., Castle, M., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Perez, L. M., & Lewis, O. J. (2024). Access and barriers to mental health resources for college students with intellectual and developmental disabilities: A qualitative inquiry. *Journal of Mental Health Research in Intellectual Disabilities*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19315864.2024.2424747>

Plotner, A. J., Starrett, A., Walters, C. B., **Smith Hill, R. B.** (2024). An examination of transition professional profiles based on value-based principles: A latent profile analysis. *Developmental Disabilities Network Journal* 4(2), 110- 131.

<https://doi.org/10.59620/2694-1104.1105>

Walters, C., **Smith Hill, R.**, & Plotner, A. (2024). Advancing supported decision-making through special education professional advocacy. *Inclusive Practices*, 3(3), 61-68.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/27324745241265088>

Fields, A. M., Lewis, O. J., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Saunders, M., & Stinnett, C. V. (2024). College students with intellectual and developmental disabilities' experiences,

conception, and development of emotional wellness. *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*. <https://doi.org/10.1352/1934-9556-62.4.274>

**Smith Hill, R. B.**, Plotner, A. J., & Stinnett, C. V. (2024). Exploring parents' views on supporting their college students with an intellectual disability to develop agency. *The School Community Journal*. <https://www.adi.org/journal/SS2024/SmithHillEtAl.pdf>

**Smith Hill, R. B.**, Plotner, A. J., & Peak, H. J. (2024). Transportation experiences of college students with intellectual and developmental disabilities: A photovoice study. *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals*.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/21651434241248592>

**Smith Hill, R. B.**, Plotner, A. J., Fields, A. M., & Castle, M., Perez, L. (2024). Exploring the personal identity of college students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

*Emerging Adulthood*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/21676968241245752>

**Smith Hill, R. B.**, Shah, P., Plotner, A. J., Castle, M., & Stinnett, C. V. (2024, online). Inclusive postsecondary education and self-determination: Using photovoice to centre college student voices in the United States of America. *Disability & Society*.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2024.2311361>

**Smith Hill, R. B.**, Stinnett, C. V., Plotner, A. J., Fields, A., Lewis, O. J., Saunders, M. (2024). An interdisciplinary approach to supporting the personal development of college students with an intellectual disability. *Inclusive Practices* 3(1-2), 3-13.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/27324745231224405>

**Smith Hill, R. B.** & Stinnett, C. V. (2024). Disability as Diversity in Higher Education Spaces. Leonard, J. & Reardon, M. (Eds.), In [Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Education](#). A volume in the series [Current Perspectives on School/University/Community Research](#).

Byrd, T., Dillensnyder, JD, Huesmann, M., Jefferson, L., **Smith Hill, R.**, Vera, A., Watts, J., Shah, P. (in press). Participatory Action Research as methodology: insights from a graduate seminar. In B. Bell, A. D. Anders, M. E. Yingling, & A. L. Sjogern (Eds.)

*Handbook of research methods and methodologies for the social sciences (pp. xxx-xxx)*  
Routledge.

Curcio, R., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Ascetta, K. (2023). What we wonder: An iterative exploration of teachers' perceptions of social-emotional learning. *School-University Partnerships*. <https://doi.org/10.1108/SUP-01-2023-0002>

Bloom, M., Garrison, R., Huesmann, M., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Viotto, J., Hebert, T. P., (2023). Conversations on friendships with twice exceptional individuals: The importance of companionship. (pp. 22-23). *Variations 2e*.  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WZu9rbUIMXSL76Xu0s72V4KUQdVdKOXr/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WZu9rbUIMXSL76Xu0s72V4KUQdVdKOXr/view?usp=drive_link)

**Smith Hill, R. B.**, Walters, C. B., Stinnett, C. V., & Plotner, A. J. (2022). Social work as social justice: Supporting the autonomy of youth with disabilities through alternatives to guardianship. *Child and Adolescent Social Work*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-022-00895-9>

Plotner, A. J., Marshall, K., & **Smith-Hill, R. B.** (2022). The influence of special education teachers' pre-service experience in postsecondary education (PSE) programs on expectations, advocacy, and philosophy. *Teacher Education and Special Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08884064221091580>

Plotner, A. J., Stinnett, C. V., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Bloom, M., & Walters, C. B. (in press). Responding to COVID-19: Administrative and procedural implications for inclusive postsecondary education programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disability. *Journal of Disability Law and Policy in Education*.

VanHorn Stinnett, C., & **Smith Hill, R.** (2021). Sexuality education: Ethics and consent. E. Harkins Monaco, T. Gibbon, & D. Bateman (Eds.), In *Talking About Sex: Sexuality Education for Learners with Disabilities*. Rowman & Littlefield.

#### *Under review*

**Smith Hill, R. B.**, Plotner, A. J., Milliron, E., Livingston, S., Shoemaker, A. (under review). Understanding key high school supports and experiences to enhance social connectedness and sense of belonging for college students with intellectual and developmental disabilities: A modified participatory Delphi study. *Exceptional Children*.

Fields, A. M., & **Smith Hill, R. B.** (under review). Examining the relationship between belonging and wellness in U.S. adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *Belonging*.

Fields, A. M., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Nice, M. L., Allard, K. N., & Castle, M. (under review). A systematic review of group counseling interventions to support the wellness and quality of life for individuals with chronic health conditions. *Health Psychology*.



**Smith Hill, R. B.**, Castle, M., Gilreath, R., Fields, A. M., & Lewis, O. J. (under review). Exploring student meaning-making in brave space through reflexive writing.

Ascetta, K., Curcio, R., **Smith Hill, R. B.** (under review). Forty years of professional development school research: A systematic review of methodology.

***In preparation***

**Smith Hill, R. B.** & Stinnett, C. V. (in preparation). Gamecock Disability in Action: A Photovoice Project.

Saunders, M., Stinnett, C., Fields, A. M., & **Smith Hill, R. B.** (in preparation). The experiences of college choice: Perspectives from college students enrolled in inclusive postsecondary education (IPSE) programs and their supports.

**Publications (non-refereed)**

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Walters, C. B., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Plotner, A. J., and Wang, H. (2024). [Supporting college students with intellectual disability through living and learning communities.](#) *Think College Insight Brief*.

**Smith-Hill, R. B.** (December, 2022). The importance of telling our children “why.” *Parenting for High Potential (PHP) Magazine*.  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WZu9rbUIMXSL76Xu0s72V4KUQdVdKOXr/view?usp=sharing>

Gilreath, R., Castle, M., Lewis, O. J., Fields, A. M., **Smith Hill, R. B.** (2024). [Fostering inclusive dialogue: Brave space practices in higher education for effective teaching and professional development.](#) Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision Newsletter 19(2), pp. 6-8.

**Smith-Hill, R. B.** & Walters, C. B. (December 2021). [Not smaller dreams, just different: Ph.D. students with kids looking to the job market.](#) AERA Graduate Student Newsletter: The Manual, p. 5.

**Smith-Hill, R. B.** (July 2021). Culturally responsive teaching made accessible: A book review [Review of the book [Culturally Responsive Teaching & the Brain: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students, by Zaretta Hammond](#)]. AERA Graduate Student Newsletter: The Manual, p. 14.

**Presentations (refereed)**

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***National/International***

Fields, A. M., Castle, M., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, & Stinnet, C. V. (2026). *Mental Health & Transition Support for Adults with Intellectual Disability*. American Counseling Association annual conference. Columbus, OH.

Fields, A. M., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Nice, M. L., Castle, M. (2026). *A Group Counseling Systematic Review to Promote Wellness in Chronic Illness*. American Counseling Association annual conference. Columbus, OH.

**Smith Hill, R. B.**, Plotner, A. J., Shoemaker, A., & Livingston, S. (2025). *Understanding Belonging in College: A Modified Delphi Study Situating Students with IDD as Experts*. State of the Art annual conference. Syracuse, NY.

**Smith Hill, R. B.** & Plotner, A. J. (2024). *Findings from Inclusive Research on Identity Development for College Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disability*. CEC Division on Career Development and Transition Annual Conference. Chantilly, VA.

**Smith Hill, R. B.**, Plotner, A. J., & Stinnett, C. V. (2024). *Inclusive Postsecondary Education and Counselor Education: A Mutually Beneficial Partnership*. State of the Art Annual Conference. Chapel Hill, NC.

**Smith Hill, R. B.**, & Stinnett, C. V. (2024). *Mental Health Strategies for College Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*. State of the Art Annual Conference. Chapel Hill, NC.

**Smith Hill, R. B.** & Stinnett, C. V. (March 2024). *Equity in Action: Capturing the Reality of Disability on a College Campus*. American Association on Colleges and Universities' (AACU) Annual Conference on Diversity, Equity, and Student Success. Philadelphia, PA.

Plotner, A. J., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Reynolds, M. (March 2024). *Supporting Student Personal Development in IPSE Programs: Leadership Perspectives*. Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Annual Conference. San Antonio, TX.

Fields, A. M., Lewis, O., Castle, M., Perez, L. M., & **Smith Hill, R. B.** (October 2023). *Learning is for everyone: Creating equity in postsecondary education*. Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) Conference. Denver, CO.

Saunders, M., Gilreath, R., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Sookwah, R. D., Burdiss, A., & Mills, J (October 2023). *Development of a Wellness Group Protocol for College Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disability: A Pilot Study*. Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) Conference. Denver, CO.

**Smith Hill, R. B.**, Fields, A. J., Saunders, M., Lewis, O., Stinnett, C. V., & Perez, L. (October 2023). *Emotional Wellness Development for College Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disability*. Annual International Conference, Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT). Reno, NV.

**Smith Hill, R. B.**, Plotner, A. J., Saunders, M. (October 2023). *A Photovoice Exploration of Self-Determination: Centering Voices of College Students with Intellectual and*

*Developmental Disabilities*. Annual International Conference, Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT). Reno, NV.

Ascetta, K. Curcio, R., **Smith Hill, R. B.** (April 2023). *40 Years of PDS Research: A Systematic Review of Methodology*. American Education Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, virtual conference.

**Smith Hill, R. B.**, Plotner, A. J. (March 2023). *The Lived Experiences of College Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: A Photovoice Project*. Symposium on Qualitative Methodologies. USF-Tampa, virtual conference.

Fields, A. M., Saunders, M., Lewis, O. J., & **Smith Hill., R. B.** (March 2023). *Interdisciplinary Approach for College Students Diagnosed with Disabilities*. American Counseling Association (ACA) Annual Conference & Expo. Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

**Smith Hill, R.**, Stinnett, C. V., Plotner, A., Fields, A. M., Saunders, M., & Lewis, O. J. (October 2022). *Supporting students' personal development: An interdisciplinary approach utilizing counselor education and social work*. Think College's Annual State of the Art Conference. Syracuse, NY.

Fields, A. M., Saunders, M., Lewis, O. J., & **Smith Hill, R.** (September 2022). *Understanding how college students diagnosed with intellectual and developmental disabilities develop emotional wellness through consensual qualitative research*. Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling Conference. St. Louis, MO.

Childs, T. M., **Smith-Hill, R.**, McNally, S. S., Iachini, A., Curcio, R., Ascetta, K., Ross, R., & Guest, J. (2022). *ReadySET: A Data-Based Decision-Making Intervention for Enhancing Readiness to Implement Social-Emotional Learning Programs*. Southeastern School Behavioral Health Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC.

**Smith-Hill, R.**, Stinnett, C. V., & Plotner, A. (May 2022). *Supporting parents of college students with IDD to develop agency*. Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)'s Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) annual conference, Myrtle Beach, SC.

**Smith-Hill, R.**, Curcio, R., & Ascetta, K. (2021). *Being heard: Teachers' perceptions of schoolwide positive behavior support*. National Association for Professional Development Schools (NAPDS) conference: Stronger Together, virtual due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**Smith-Hill, R.**, Curcio, R., & Ascetta, K. (2021). *Thinking socially: Teachers' perceptions of social emotional learning for student and teacher well-being*. National Association for Professional Development Schools (NAPDS) conference: Stronger Together, virtual due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**Smith-Hill, R.**, Plotner, A., Pound, S., & Bloom, M. (2021). *Culturally responsive teaching for students with disabilities: Examining teacher self-efficacy to enhance transition outcomes*. American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference:

Accepting Educational Responsibility, in-progress student research poster presentation. Virtual due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Curcio, R., **Smith-Hill, R.**, & Ascetta, K. (2021). *What we wonder: How a professional development school-district collectively uncovered teachers' perceptions of social-emotional learning*. American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference: Accepting Educational Responsibility, paper presentation. Virtual due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Ascetta, K., **Smith-Hill, R.**, & Curcio, R. (2021). *Being heard: Teachers' perceptions and understanding of schoolwide positive behavior support*. American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference: Accepting Educational Responsibility, paper presentation. Virtual due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Stinnett, C. V. & **Smith-Hill, R.** (2021). *Ethics of providing sexuality education to adults with IDD*. Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) annual conference. Virtual due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**Smith-Hill, R.** & Stinnett, C. V. (2020). *Supporting parents of college students with IDD to develop agency*. State of the Art annual conference, Syracuse, NY. (Canceled due to Covid-19).

Plotner, A. J., Marshall, K. M., & **Smith-Hill, R.** (2019). *The influence of special education teachers' preservice experience in postsecondary education (PSE) programs on expectations, advocacy, and philosophy*. Teacher Education Division (TED) of the Council of Exceptional Children (CEC) annual conference, New Orleans, LA.

Sauls, L.A. & **Smith-Hill, R.** (2014). *Literacy success for all: Implementing a literacy-based summer program for homeless youth*. Institute for Children, Poverty & Homelessness' conference: Beyond Housing: A National Conversation on Child Homelessness and Poverty, New York City, NY.

**Smith-Hill, R.** (2008). *Veterans and WorkKeys- A WINning combination*. WorkKeys Southeastern Conference, Chattanooga, TN.

Albritton, D. & **Smith-Hill, R.** (2007). *Homefront Readiness: Innovative veteran homelessness prevention*. National "Homeward Bound: Celebrating Years of VA and Community Partnership in Services to Homeless Veterans" Conference, San Diego, CA.

Albritton, D. & **Smith-Hill, R.** (2006). *Creating summer camps in your community technology center*. CTCNet National Conference; Washington, DC.

### **Regional/State**

**Smith Hill, R. B.** (2026). *SEPSEA Research Committee Hosted Roundtable*. IPSE Association Pre-Conference: Southeastern Postsecondary Education Association (SEPSEA) annual conference. New Orleans, LA.

Fields, A. M., **Smith Hill, R. B.**, Stinnett, C. V. (2026). *Suicide Prevention for Young Adults with IDD*. Southeastern Postsecondary Education Association (SEPSEA) annual conference. New Orleans, LA.

**Smith Hill, R. B.**, Plotner, A. J., Milliron, E. (2026). *Expanding Opportunities: The Work of the South Carolina Inclusive Postsecondary Education Consortium*. Southeastern Postsecondary Education Association (SEPSEA) annual conference. New Orleans, LA.

Petee, H., **Smith Hill, R.**, Bonilha, L., Toriello P. (2026). *Exploring the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Counseling Practice: A Conceptual Piece*. University of South Carolina AI Day. Columbia, SC.

**Smith Hill, R. B.**, Plotner, A. J., Shoemaker, A., Livingston, S. (May 2025). *Exploring Social Connectedness & Sense of Belonging for College Students with and without IDD*. Southeastern Postsecondary Education Association (SEPSEA) Annual Conference. Asheville, NC.

**Smith Hill, R. B.** (April 2023). *A Photovoice Exploration of Self-Determination: Centering Voices of College Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*. Discover USC. Columbia, SC.

Fields, A., Lewis, O., Saunders, M., **Smith-Hill, R.** (2022). *Mental Wellness Development for College Students Living With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*. Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (SACES) Annual Conference. Baltimore, MD.

McNally, S. S., Iachini, A., Childs, T.M., **Smith-Hill, R.**, Curcio, R., Ascetta, K., Ross, R. & Guest, J. (2022). *Introducing ReadySET: Enhancing School Social Workers and Other School Stakeholders' Readiness to Implement Social-Emotional Learning Programs*. NASW South Carolina 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium.

**Smith-Hill, R.** (2008). Panel member for *Youth Issues and Challenges Session* at the Midlands Community Leaders Institute: Building and Sustaining Healthy Communities; Columbia, SC.

**Smith-Hill, R.** (2007). *Homefront Readiness: Technology in economic and workplace development*. Benedict's Broadband in Cities and Towns Conference, Columbia, SC.

## **Grants**

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Source: Patient-Centered (PCORI)

Title:

Co-Principal Investigators: Alexander Fields, **Rebecca Smith Hill**, Chelsea Stinnett, & Anthony Plotner

Grant Amount: \$5,000,000 (3 years)

Submitted 2026

Source: SC Developmental Disabilities Council, Small Grant  
Title: *SPURS UP: Strengthening Postsecondary Understanding, Readiness, and Success: University Prep*

Principal Investigator: **Rebecca Smith Hill**

Grant Amount: \$20,000 (1 year)

Awarded 2026

Source: Spencer Foundation, Vision Grant

Title: *Building Equity for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Higher Education*

Principal Investigator: **Rebecca Smith Hill**

Grant Amount: \$75,000 (1 year)

(not funded) 2024

Source: SC Council on Higher Education

Title: *Project Transition Equity through Careers (TEC)*

Co-Principal Investigators: **Rebecca Smith Hill** & Anthony Plotner

Grant Amount: \$175,000 (1 year)

Awarded 2024

Source: SC Developmental Disabilities Council

Title: *Project Invest: Maximizing Career Opportunities through Industry Recognized Credentials for College Students with Intellectual Disabilities*

Principal Investigator: **Rebecca Smith Hill**

Grant amount: \$186,000 (3 years)

Awarded 2024

Source: U.S. Department of Education Disability Innovation Fund (DIF)

Title: *South Carolina Pathways Project: A Disability-Led Collaborative Model for Student Success*

Funded Entities: SC Department of Education, South Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Principal Investigator: Peter Keup. Co-Principal Investigators: Jennifer Garner, Kimberly Tissot, Anthony Plotner. Subcontract to University of South Carolina: \$500,000.

Role: Grants & Evaluation Team

Grant Amount, \$9,900,000 (5 years)

Awarded 2023

Source: OSEP Personnel Development to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities—Preparation of Special Education, Early Intervention, and Related Services Leadership Personnel Grant

Title: *Project FUSION*

Role: Co-Investigator

Grant amount: \$1,244,391 (5 years)

Awarded 2023

Source: Division for Career Development and Transition (DCDT) Graduate Student Research Grant

Title: *Agency and College Students with Intellectual Disabilities: A Photovoice Project*

Principal Investigator: **Rebecca Smith Hill**

Grant amount: \$500

Awarded 2022

Source: Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) Research Incentive Program Grant for *Development of Emotional Wellness for College Students Diagnosed with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: A Qualitative Inquiry*.

Role: Co-Investigator

Awarded 2022

Source: OSEP Personnel Development to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities—Preparation of Special Education, Early Intervention, and Related Services Leadership Personnel Grant

Title: *Project FUSION*

Role: Co-Investigator

(not funded) 2022

Source: Support to Promote Advancement of Research and Creativity (SPARC) Graduate Research Grant at University of South Carolina:

Title: *Agency and College Students with Intellectual Disabilities: A Photovoice Project*

Principal Investigator: **Rebecca Smith Hill**

Grant amount: \$5,000 (1 year)

Awarded 2022

Source: Southeastern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (SACES)

Title: *Development of a Wellness Group Protocol for College Students with Disabilities: A Pilot Study*

Role: Co-Investigator

Awarded 2022

Grant amount: \$500

Source: Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES)

Title: *Development of Emotional Wellness for College Students Diagnosed with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: A Qualitative Study*

Role: Co-Investigator

(not funded) 2022

Source: NIDDILR Field-Initiated Grant

Title: *Project CIL and School Collaboration (CSC): Developing a Results-Focused Model of Collaboration Between Centers for Independent Living and Schools*

Role: Co-Investigator

(not

funded) 2021

Source: University of South Carolina Aspire II

Title: *ReadySET: School Readiness for Teaching Social-Emotional Learning Skills*

Role: Co-Investigator

Awarded 2021

Grant amount: \$99,927 (1 year)

Source: Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID) grant from the US Department of Education

Title: *Project DRIVE*



Role: Co-Investigator Awarded 2020  
Grant amount: \$2,200,000 (5 years)

Source: SPARC Graduate Research Grant at University of South Carolina  
Title: *Culturally responsive teaching for students with disabilities: Examining teacher self-efficacy to enhance transition outcomes*  
Principal Investigator: **Rebecca Smith Hill** (not funded) 2020

Source: Colonial Life Strong Schools Teacher Grant  
Principal Investigator: **Rebecca Smith Hill**  
Grant amount: \$5,000 (1 year) Awarded 2015

Source: Richland One School District Teacher Innovation Grants  
Principal Investigator: **Rebecca Smith Hill**  
Grant Amount: \$500 each (1 year each) Awarded 2015 & 2016

## **University Courses Taught**

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*University of South Carolina*

University 101: The Student in the University, *Instructor* (Fall 2023, 2024)

Special Education 205: Understanding the Foundations of Disability, *Instructor* (Spring 2023, 2024, 2025); *Co-Instructor* (Spring 2022)

SCHC 377: Toward Inclusive Pedagogy: Assessing Accessibility at USC, *Instructor*, Fall 2024)

SCHC 377: Equity in Action: Disability and Accessibility in Higher Education, *(Co-Instructor, Fall 2022)*

Agency in College CL304, CarolinaLIFE small group course, *Instructor* (Fall 2022)

Introduction to Healthy Relationships CL208, CarolinaLIFE small group course, *Instructor* (Fall 2021, Spring 2022)

Special Education 762: Career Preparation and Employment for Adults with Disabilities, *Adjunct Instructor* (Fall 2021)

Special Education 523: Introduction to Exceptional Children, *Instructor* (Summer 2021)

Welfare & Social Work 222: Social Work Institutions, Policies & Programs, *Adjunct Instructor*



(Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015)

Social Work 201: Introduction to the Social Work Profession, *Adjunct Instructor*  
(Fall 2008, Spring 2009)

## **Invited Presentations and Lectures**

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*South Carolina Department of Education, Office of Educational Technology and Accessibility*

### **Digital Accessibility BootCamp Presenter**

Presented on Universal Design for Learning (UDL)- what it is, its benefits, and how to implement and find resources for implementation in K-12 classrooms.  
Summer 2024

*University of Kentucky*

### **Leadership in Special Education, Masters Level Course**

Shared information about my journey into special education leadership and information about inclusive postsecondary education. Also shared information about my research, specifically aspects that translate to practices that could enhance transition to IPSE for students with disabilities (self-determination, personal development topics- identity formation, dignity of risk).

Spring 2024, Guest lecturer under the supervision of Mark Samudre, PhD

*Think College*

### **Think College Inclusive Campus Life Affinity Group**

Shared tools and resources used for tracking and supporting student inclusion in campus activities with other inclusive postsecondary education programs with this national group.  
Fall, 2022

*University of South Carolina*

### **EDCE 702: Counselor As Consultant**

Presented *Working with Folx with Disabilities*

Summer, 2025, Guest lecturer under supervision of Ashley Waddington, PhD

### **Teaching Fellows, University of South Carolina**

Shared a presentation with undergraduate pre-service educators: *Working with Students with Disabilities: Tips for Pre-Service Educators*.

Spring, 2023

### **EDEX 523: Introduction to Exceptional Children**

Shared information about inclusive postsecondary education (IPSE) programs generally and CarolinaLIFE specifically. Shared information and my research about self-determination, agency, dignity of risk, and sense of belonging as constructs contributing

to overall quality of life for emerging adults with intellectual and developmental disability.

Spring 2023, Guest lecturer under supervision of Aaron Check

**EDCE 210: Career Planning and Development**

Conducted class lecture on History of Disability Rights, special education, inclusive postsecondary education programs, and Universal Design for Learning (UDL).

Fall 2022, Guest lecturer under supervision of Laura Craven, LPC

**EDCE 820: Advanced Transcultural Counseling**

Conducted class lecture on History of Disability Rights and inclusive postsecondary education programs.

Fall 2021, Guest lecturer under supervision of Moody Crews, PhD

**EDCE 502: Guidance Techniques for Classroom Teachers**

Conducted class lecture on privilege, special education, and Universal Design for Learning (UDL).

Spring 2022, Guest lecturer under supervision of Alexander Fields, MA

**Research Projects**

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**Service**

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***Professional***

Southeastern Postsecondary Education Alliance (SEPSEA)

Vice-Chair of Research 2025

Reviewer, *American Journal of Preventative Medicine* 2025

Reviewer, *Rehabilitation Psychology* 2025

Reviewer, *Teacher Education and Special Education* 2024-present

Reviewer, *International Journal of Inclusive Education* 2023-present

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Disability Policy Studies* 2023-present

Reviewer, *Journal of Inclusive Postsecondary Education* 2023-present

Conference Presentation Reviewer, *USF Interdisciplinary Symposium on Qualitative Methodologies* 2023

Reviewer, *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science (IJRISS)* 2023

Reviewer, <i>Journal of American College Health</i>	2023-present
Secretary, SC Division on Career Development and Transition Board	2022- 2024
Conference Presentation Reviewer, AERA	2022
Reviewer, <i>Departures in Critical Qualitative Research</i>	2022
Reviewer, <i>Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals</i> 2022	
Contributor, American Educational Research Association (AERA) Graduate Student Council newsletter	2021
Ad hoc reviewer for <i>Journal of Rehabilitation</i>	2021
Ad hoc reviewer for <i>Journal of Disability Law and Policy in Education</i>	2021
Ad hoc reviewer for <i>Journal of Child and Family Studies</i>	2020
Conference Presentation Reviewer, CEC, Division on Career Development and Transition	2020, 2022, 2023
<b><i>University</i></b>	
Field Instructor, USC Bachelors Social Work students	2024, 2025
MUSC Occupational Therapy Doctoral Student Field Project Supervisor	2023-2025
MUSC Masters in Genetics Thesis Committee Member	2024
USC Honors College Senior Thesis Second Reader	2023
Clinical Supervisor, PhD Counselor Education & Supervision student	2022, 2023
Field Instructor, USC Master Social Work students	2020-present
Reviewer, <i>Discover USC Research Day</i>	2022, 2023
Member, USC College of Education Diversity Committee	2021-present
Member, USC Special Education Graduate Student Committee	2021-present
<b><i>Community Service</i></b>	
Board Secretary, <i>Power in Changing</i> Columbia, SC	Term: 2022- 25

*Power in Changing* volunteer (local diaper bank) 2020-present

Weekend Food Backpack volunteer, Shandon Presbyterian Church  
Columbia, SC 2019-present

Board Member, Richland County First Steps Early Head Start Policy Council;  
Columbia, SC Term: 2014-15

### **Additional Training/Certifications**

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FERPA for Colleges & Universities Training  
2022

USC *Preparing Future Faculty* Certificate 2022

Critical Race Theory Summer Institute Fellow, USC  
2021

Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention Training, USC 2021

Trauma-Informed Yoga 2018

### **Professional Affiliations**

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Member, Southeastern Postsecondary Education Alliance (SEPSEA)

Member- Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), Division on Career Development (DCDT) and Transition & Division for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners (DDEL)

Member- Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD)

Member- American Educational Research Association (AERA), Postsecondary Education & Teaching and Teacher Education divisions