

DESTINI N. BRAXTON

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Research Interests Include:

academic emotions, teacher-student relationships
motivation in STEM among minoritized student populations and students with disabilities

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University. August 2023.

- Dissertation: *How Teacher-Student Relationships Shape Student Engagement and Interest in Science.*
- Dissertation committee: Dr. Sharon Zumbrunn (chair), Dr. Alison Koenka, Dr. Charlotte Agger, and Dr. Luciana de Oliveira

Master of Education in Special Education, Virginia Commonwealth University. May 2018.

- Cumulative GPA: 3.8

Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University. May 2017.

- Cumulative GPA: 3.226 / Psychology Major specific GPA: 3.243
- Six semesters on the Dean's List

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

FUNDING

Braxton, D. (2022). *How student emotions and teacher trust shape science motivation, engagement, and achievement in middle school.* VCU Graduate Student SEED Funding. (\$500, funded)
Role: Principal Investigator

Koenka, A. C., Nicolai, K. D., **Braxton, D.**, Gray, D. L., & Berry, D. N. (2022). *Mathematics tracking, feedback experiences, and motivation in Black and Latiné students: A community-engaged exploration and extension.* APA Division 15 Research Grant. (\$4,900, funded)
Role: Co-Investigator

Braxton, D. & Berry, D. N. (2022). *Black Special Education Students' Motivational and Feedback Experiences in Middle School Mathematics: Understanding Intersecting Experiences.* AERA Division C SharkTank Competition. (\$1,000, funded)
Role: Principal Investigator

Koenka, A. C., Nicolai, K. D., **Braxton, D.**, Wallace, M. K., & Cheng, S. (2022). *Math tracking and motivation in Black students: Exploring feedback experiences and racial diversity as mechanisms for more equitable experiences and outcomes.* AERA Division C Equity Grant (\$3,850, funded).
Role: Co-Investigator

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

- Braxton, D.** & Terrell, K.L. (in press). Linking practices and standards to strategies that enhance writing for students with disabilities. In M.W. Colonnese, T. Casa, and F. Cardetti (Eds.), *Illuminating and Advancing the Path for Mathematical Writing Research*. Hershey, PA: IGI Global.
- de Oliveira, L. C., Willging, T., Gui, J., & **Braxton, D.** (in press). Culturally sustaining practices for elementary multilingual learners: Examples from classrooms. In C. Finkbeiner, R. Zaidi, Z. Roy-Campbell, D. Pallais, C. Ikpeze, & B. Buch (Eds.), *Redirecting the flow of knowledge: From the individual to the local to the national to the international perspective*.
- Terrell, K.L. & **Braxton, D.** (in press). Unpacking functional language in mathematics. In L. de Oliveira (Ed.), *Applying a Functional Approach to Language Development in Teaching the Content Areas to Multilingual Learners in K-12 Classrooms*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.
- Terrell, K.L., **Braxton, D.**, dos Santos, A.E., and Willging, T. (in press). A functional approach to STEAM: Teaching to argue about sound. In D. Agar, S. Ali, and M. Berg (Eds.), *Content Area Language and Literacy*, Open Education Edited Volume. Open Access.
- Nicolai, K. D., Koenka, A. C., & **Braxton, D.** (in press). Black and Latiné youth's experience of inequitable feedback: How can middle school educators provide more motivationally-supportive feedback?. *Middle School Journal*.
- de Oliveira, L. C., **Braxton, D.**, Gui, J., & Willging, T. (in press). A critical dialogue among participants in a professional learning community. In C.-C. Lin, C. Bauler, & V. Cobb (Eds.), *Dialogue in action: Identity, language and power*. Multilingual Matters.
- de Oliveira, L. C., **Braxton, D.**, & Gui, J. (2021). Planning for instruction using a language-based approach to content instruction for multilingual learners. [*Journal of English Learner Education*, 13\(1\), 12-29.](#)
- Braxton, D.** (2021, June) Life balance: Teacher, mommy, and doctorate degree. *Women, Gender, and Families of Color*.
- Hoetger, C., Wall, C., Rudy, A., Nicksic, N., Bhatt, S., Sey, N., Khan, M., **Braxton, D.**, Barnes, A., & Cobb, C. (2020, December). Content appealing to youth and spend characteristics of electronic cigarette video advertisements. *Journal of Public Health*.

PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW AND ACCEPTED

- de Oliveira, L.C., Beatty, J., Terrell, K.L., Gui, J., Willging, T., **Braxton, D.**, and dos Santos, A.E. (proposal accepted). Mentoring in a professional learning community of researchers: Perspectives on wellbeing. In B. Kutsyuruba and F. Kochan, (Eds.), *Mentoring for Wellbeing: An Interdisciplinary Perspective*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.
- Braxton, D.** & de Oliveira, L. C., (revise and resubmit). *Principles of antiracist practices for Black and Latinx students in mathematics*.

de Oliveira, L.C., Beatty, J., Terrell, K.L., Gui, J., Willging, T., **Braxton, D.**, and dos Santos, A.E. (chapter proposal). Mentoring in a professional learning community of researchers: Perspectives on wellbeing. In B. Kutsyuruba and F. Kochan, (Eds.), *Mentoring for Wellbeing: An Interdisciplinary Perspective*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.

INVITED PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Koenka, A. C., **Braxton, D.**, Nicolai, K. D., & Wallace, M. K., (2021, May). *Key considerations for doing community-engaged work: How to set yourself up to successfully collaborate with researchers, students, and school partners*. American Psychological Association Division 15 Early Career Educational Psychology Series.

Roehrig, A. D., Garner, J. K., **Braxton, D.**, Karakus, M., Deleon, D. L., & Koenka, A. C., (2021, September). *Careers in applied psychology: Educational psychology*. American Psychological Association OAP Series on Careers in Applied Psychology.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Koenka, A. C., Nicolai, K. D., **Braxton, D.**, Wallace, M. K., Berry, D. N., & Graham, S. (2023, April). *Feedback as a vehicle for promoting and preventing equity: A motivational perspective*. Paper to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association. Chicago, IL.

Nicolai, K. D., Koenka, A. C., **Braxton, D.**, & Wallace, M. K. (2023, February). *Are Motivation Interventions in Elementary and Secondary Science Classrooms Taking a Culturally Responsive or Critical Approach? A Systematic Review*. [Poster presentation]. Holmes Scholars Preconference at Annual Meeting of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, Indianapolis, IN.

de Oliveira, L.C., Terrell, K., Willging, T., Gui, J., & **Braxton, D.** (2022, October). *Applying a functional approach in the content areas for multilingual learners*. 2022 South East Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (SETESOL) Conference.

Braxton, D., Koenka, A. C., & Nicolai, K. D. (2022, August). *Centering and celebrating identities when developing school partnerships*. Critical Conversation presented at the American Psychological Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.

Nicolai, K. D., Garries, R., *Berry, D. N., ***Braxton, D.**, *Meekins, D., *Taylor, M. L., *Wallace, M. K., *Walls, K. H., *Wineland, T., & Koenka, A. C. (2022, August). *Evidence-based practices for teaching human development guided by theory and personal experience*. Symposium presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association. Minneapolis, MN. *signifies equal contributions

Braxton, D., & Berry, D. N. (2022, April). *Black special education students' motivational and feedback experiences in middle school mathematics: Understanding intersecting experiences*. SharkTank Competition presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.

- Braxton, D.**, Koenka, A. C., & Berry, D. N. (2022, March). *Understanding two intersecting social experiences among Black special education middle school students*. Poster presented at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Education Research Colloquium, Richmond, VA.
- Nicolai, K. D., Koenka, A. C., & **Braxton, D.** (2022, March). *Differential feedback provided to Black and Latinx students: The motivational impacts and how to move forward*. Poster presented at Holmes Scholar Preconference at American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Braxton, D.**, Koenka, A. C., Waller, L., & Nicolai, K. D. (2021, October). *Bridging the gap between theory and practice: Developing university-school partnerships with a dual identity*. Virtual 2021 Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium Conference at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.
- de Oliveira, L.C., Willging, T., Gui, J., & **Braxton, D.** (2021, September). *Sample texts identifying WIDA 2020 standards language functions and features*. Virtual 2021 Virginia Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (VATESOL) Conference.
- de Oliveira, L.C., Gui, J., **Braxton, D.**, & Willging, T. (2021, September). *Culturally sustaining practices for elementary multilingual learners in WIDA 2020*. Virtual 2021 Virginia Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (VATESOL) Conference.
- Braxton, D.** (2021, February). *Does teachers' race matter: Impact on student relationships, student identity, motivation, and achievement in mathematics*. Round Table Presentation at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education – Holmes Scholars Preconference. Virtual.
- Furman, J., Zumbrunn, S., Marrs, S., Kamat, P., **Braxton, D.**, Ekholm, E., Broda, M. (2021, April 9-12). *Exploring elementary student writing motivation and success*. Paper Accepted at the Virtual American Educational Research Association Annual Conference.
- Nicolai, K. D., Koenka, A. C., & **Braxton, D.** (2020, October). *Differential and adaptive feedback: Defined and explained*. 2020 Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium Conference at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.
- Furman, J., Zumbrunn, S., Marrs, S., Kamat, P., **Braxton, D.**, Ekholm, E., Broda, M. (2020, August 6-8). *Exploring elementary student writing motivation and success* [poster presentation canceled]. Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association. Washington, D.C.
- Braxton, D.** (2020, February). *Self-worth theory perspective: Understanding academic and motivational beliefs in special education and general education mathematics classrooms*. Round Table presentation at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education – Holmes Scholars Preconference. Atlanta, GA.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Hoetger, C., **Braxton, D.**, Cogley, J., Barnes, A., & Cobb, C. (2017, June). *Effects of exposure to tobacco product promotions on the susceptibility to electronic cigarette use among smokers and nonsmokers*. Poster presented at the Massey Cancer Research Retreat, Richmond, VA.

Wall, C. S. J., **Braxton, D.**, Cogley, J., Barnes, A., Cobb, C. O. (2017, June). *Is online electronic cigarette advertising targeting youth and young adults? Evidence from website location and spending data*. Poster Presented at the Massey Cancer Center Research Retreat, Richmond, VA.

Braxton D, Cogley J, Bhatt S, Sey N, Khan M, Hoetger C, Rudy A, Barnes A, & Cobb, C. (2017, April). *Electronic cigarette TV and online video advertisement*. Poster presented at: 12th Annual Poster Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creativity at Virginia Commonwealth University. Richmond, VA.

Sey N, Bhatt S, **Braxton D**, Cogley J, Khan M, Rudy A, Barnes A, & Cobb, C. (2016, November). *Developing a content analysis protocol for electronic cigarette TV and online video advertising*. Poster presentation given at: VCU Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Closing Symposium. Richmond, VA.

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, [Multilingual Learners in Schools Research Lab](#), (8/2019 – present). Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Education, Principal Investigator: Dr. Luciana de Oliveira. I assisted in designing and conducting research studies on Multilingual Learners. Also helped analyze qualitative data and prepare conference presentations, journal publications, and book chapters.

Lab Co-Manager, [Motivation in Context Research Lab](#), (8/2021 - present). Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Education, Principal Investigator: Dr. Sharon Zumbrunn. Co-led social media outreach and assisted with scheduling lab events and coordinating meetings.

Lab Member, [Motivation in Context Research Lab](#), (8/2018 - 8/2021). Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Education, Principal Investigator: Dr. Sharon Zumbrunn.

Undergraduate Research Assistant, [Behavioral Health Research Lab](#), (8/2016 - 5/2017). Virginia Commonwealth University, Department of Psychology, Principal Investigator: Dr. Caroline Cobb. I assisted in participant recruitment, screening for eligibility, and consenting participants. I helped with lab organization, survey development using RedCap, and collecting and analyzing quantitative data.

K-12 TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Exceptional Education Department Chair, Boushall Middle School, Richmond Public Schools, Richmond, VA: August 2022 - present. Responsibilities: Assist with reviewing annual IEPs, lead bi-weekly department meetings, and present professional development sessions to case managers on co-teaching strategies, scaffolding and differentiating instruction, and scribing and analyzing quarterly progress notes to assess student progress.

Special Education Teacher: Grades 6-7 Math, Boushall Middle School, Richmond Public Schools, Richmond, VA: August 2018 - present. Responsibilities: co-teaching and collaborative planning with general education teachers; implementing evidence-based practices and positive behavior intervention support (PBIS) in the classroom; IEP planning (e.g., data collection, parent communication, writing IEP components) and implementation; Extended School Day and Saturday School tutoring.

VCU Richmond Teacher Resident: Grade 8 English, Henderson Middle School, Richmond Public Schools, Richmond, VA: August 2017 - June 2018. Responsibilities: co-teaching and collaborative planning with general education teachers; implementing evidence-based practices and positive behavior intervention support in the classroom; IEP planning (e.g., data collection, parent communication, writing IEP components) and implementation.

AFFILIATIONS

APA Division 15 Member	2022 - present
AERA Division C Member	2019 - present
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.	2015 - present
VCU Holmes Scholar	2019- 2021

SKILLS, TRAINING, AND CERTIFICATIONS

Languages: Spanish (writing, reading, and speaking), Arabic (writing, reading, and speaking), and Italian (writing, reading, and speaking)

Child Abuse & Neglect Certification (earned June 2017)

- Completed Child Abuse and Neglect: Recognizing, Reporting, and Responding for Educators training

Red Cross Certification (earned February 2017)

- Completed adult and pediatric first aid/CPR/AED training

Trained in use of novel puff topography recording equipment (eTop; earned February 2017)

- Measures and records tobacco use behavior (i.e., puff topography) including puff volume, puff velocity, and puff duration
- Proficient in calibrating for data collection and collecting puff topography data for analysis

REFERENCES

Dr. Sharon Zumbrunn

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