Welcome to the on-line course ELED/SEED 887-Coaching and Mentoring Literacy. This course will explore the role of the literacy coach in working with teachers to improve instruction and develop effective literacy communities within schools.

My name is Keri Tisher, and I will be your instructor in this course. I am currently an adjunct professor for USD where I have taught graduate and undergraduate courses in reading including Leadership of Literacy Programs, Research in Reading, and Literacy Instruction. I am also an adjunct professor for Mt. Marty College where I teach undergraduate reading courses, supervise practicum students, and graduate technology courses. I am a full time first grade teacher for the Watertown School District in Watertown, SD. I have 22 years of teaching experience in public schools where I have taught various grade levels, served as a reading coach, and served as a technology coach. I hope to bring my experiences to this course, and I am looking forward to working with and learning from you.

This class is held via D2L, which means there will be no face-to-face classroom time and no scheduled meetings. It is important that you take the time to read the course syllabus carefully, as there are important course requirements and deadline dates listed. Please note that there may be some minor changes to the syllabus found on the CDE website. The version posted in D2L is the most recent and accurate.

Be sure to review the online orientation packet, which you can find on the D2L homepage for this course. Also, be sure to read all of the documents posted in the Syllabus section under CONTENT in D2L to assist you in understanding course expectations. I will be available by e-mail (either through D2L or my USD e-mail keri.tisher@usd.edu) to answer any questions you may have. I check my email regularly, and will respond to you within 48 hours – usually within 24 hours. If you need a quick response, my USD email is recommended as I check that more frequently during the day. I will read discussion postings on a weekly basis and participate in the discussions as appropriate. Papers will be graded within two weeks of submission-all grades and feedback will be conveyed to you through D2L.

Those of you pursuing a masters or doctoral degree in reading will find the content of this course most helpful in completing your internship requirements as well as preparation for comprehensive exams.

Required Textbooks:


You can order these textbooks from Barnes and Noble at USD by e-mail (bn@usd.edu) or over the telephone (605-677-6291). The textbook can also be ordered through most on-line bookstores.
The course also includes readings from related articles that can be found as PDFs under Content/Literacy Coach Briefs on D2L. These articles will assist you in developing your knowledge base. The readings and assignments are relevant to what will be expected of you as literacy coach, principal, reading specialist or curriculum director.

This course has been designed to provide interactive, on-line discussions as the foundation for learning. While there will be some independent study and written papers, you and your classmates will be sharing each week through discussion board postings regarding the reading assignments. Engagement in discussion will be a critical component of the learning environment. Students will be expected to keep up with the reading and the assignments but also take time to critically review and synthesize the course content in order to meet the course requirements. Most of the required assignments for the class can be completed asynchronously. Depending on the size of the class, small groups may be formed for weekly discussions in D2L.

The Course Homepage will coordinate your work in this course. To begin, you should read the syllabus and this Welcome Letter. An important step is to read the Orientation (which links to the Online Orientation Packet located on the Continuing Education website). The Online Orientation Packet will also provide you with valuable information on Etiquette/Netiquette reminding us to always be courteous and respectful to others in the course.

On the first day you should:
Read the Welcome Letter
Read the Syllabus
Read the Orientation (On-line Orientation Packet)
Post an Introduction to yourself on the Discussion Board
Reply to a few members in the class on their introductions posted in the Discussion Board

I look forward to getting to know each of you and sharing knowledge during the time we are involved in the on-line course.

Sincerely,
Dr. Keri Tisher, Adjunct Professor
keri.tisher@usd.edu