

Rachelle Kuehl, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

- 2020 Doctor of Philosophy, Curriculum & Instruction (Literacy Education)
Education Specialist, Reading
Graduate Certificate, Educational Psychology
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA
- 2016 Master of Science, Educational Leadership
Radford University, Radford, VA
- 1999 Bachelor of Arts, English (Minor: American Racial & Multicultural Studies)
St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN

Specialized Training

- 2004 Teacher Consultant, Northern Virginia Writing Project
George Mason University, Fairfax, VA
- 1999 Teaching Licensure, Elementary Education
University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis, MN

APPOINTMENTS

- 2026 – present Assistant Professor, University of Oklahoma
Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education
- 2024 – 2026 Visiting Assistant Professor, Virginia Tech
School of Education
- 2022 – 2024 Research Scientist in Rural Education, Virginia Tech
Center for Rural Education/School of Education
- 2020 – 2022 Postdoctoral Associate, Virginia Tech
School of Education (Appalachian Rural Talent Initiative)
- 2016 – 2020 Graduate Teaching/Research Assistant, Virginia Tech
School of Education (Elementary Education and Literacy Programs)
- 2003 – 2006 Teacher, Grade One, Woodlawn Elementary School
Fairfax County Public Schools, Virginia

LICENSURE

Virginia Department of Education Post-Graduate Licensure, PreK–6

Endorsements: Educational Leadership, ESL, Reading Specialist

FELLOWSHIPS

National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2022. Project title: “Enacting an Antiracist Critical Literacy Pedagogy in Rural Places: How Appalachian Teachers Engage Students in the Interrogation of Whiteness.” \$70,000 award.

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

National Council of Teachers of English, Children's Literature Assembly Early Career Awardee, 2025.

Virginia Tech Institute for Society, Culture, and Engagement Faculty “PREP” Program (Preparing your Research for an Extramural Proposal). \$5,000 award.

Journal of Literacy Innovation Article of the Year Award, 2020. Article title: “A Place for Reading: Leveraging Mentor Texts with Middle Grade Rural Writers.”

Virginia Tech School of Education Dissertation of the Year (Nominee), 2020.

Graduate Student Association Research Symposium, Virginia Tech, 2019. Bronze award for poster presentation.

EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

Grant Projects

2020–2023 Appalachian Rural Talent Initiative. Project manager (A. P. Azano, PI). Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, \$500,000.

2020–2023 Summer Enrichment Experience at Virginia Tech (SEE VT). Lead science curriculum writer (A. P. Azano, PI). Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, \$260,290.

Large-Scale Applications (Not Funded)

2024–2026 Rural DEI: Supporting a Rural Sense of Belonging as Educational Leaders Address Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Their Rural Schools and Communities (Co-PI, with A. P. Azano). Spencer Foundation, \$50,000 (under review).

2024–2026 Celebrating Testimonios, Ciphers, and Folkways: Storytelling to Honor Diverse Ways of Being and Living Rural. (PI, with C. Parton and A. P. Azano). National Endowment for the Arts, \$100,000 (not funded).

2023–2026 Partnership Tutoring for Equity with Refugee/Migrant Youth in Rural Communities (Co-PI, with A. P. Azano, K. Powell, & B. Shadle). William T. Grant Foundation, \$600,000 (not funded; resubmitted with R. Kuehl and B. Shadle in consulting roles).

2022–2026 The DREAMS Project: Developing Rural Equity to Advance Marginalized Students (Co-PI, with A. P. Azano). U.S. Department of Education, Jacob K. Javits Grant, \$721,987 (not funded).

2022–2024 Patrick County for Literacy and Community Engagement: The PLACE Hub Advancing Literacy and Supporting Rural Schools (Co-PI, with A. P. Azano). Virginia Department of Education, \$308,130 (not funded).

SCHOLARSHIP

Refereed Journal Articles

- Panozzo, M., Kuehl, R., & Eppley, K. (In press). “The kid who brought pride”: Phil Stamper’s *Small Town Pride* as a rural queer mentor text. *Journal of Literacy Innovation*.
- Kuehl, R. (2026). Disrupting status quo notions of race in elementary social studies instruction. *The Social Studies*.
- Rasheed, M., Kuehl, R., Azano, A. P., & Callahan, C. M. (2025). Rural teachers’ experiences with a place-based gifted curriculum: A case study. *Theory & Practice in Rural Education*, 15(1), 89–122.
- Kuehl, R., Azano, A. P., & Mata, R. (2025). Addressing equity challenges and expanding opportunities in gifted education for rural multilingual learners. *Journal of Advanced Academics*, 36(3), 563–586.
- Kuehl, R., & Eppley, K. (2024). Representing rural: A critical content analysis of contemporary middle grade novels set in rural places. *Research in the Teaching of English*, 58(4), 379–404.
- Medina, A., Kuehl, R., & Pendarvis, E. (2024). Strengthening teachers’ professionalism and confidence in addressing opposition to challenged books. *Phi Delta Kappan*, 105(7), 38–43.
- Parton, C., & Kuehl, R. (2023). “Bet you can’t wait to get out”: Complicating narratives of leaving in rural young adult literature. *Journal of Literacy Research*, 55(4), 406–427.
- Kuehl, R., & Snyder, J. D. (2023). Partnering and place: Teaming up to build sustainable gifted programming in Appalachian schools. *Teaching for High Potential*, Nov 2023, 18–21.
- Kuehl, R., & Azano, A. P. (2023). Critical pedagogies of place in the language arts classroom. *Reading in Virginia*, XLV, 1–13.
- Kuehl, R. (2022). Through lines: Exploring past/present connections in middle grade novels. *The Reading Teacher*, 75(4), 441–451.
- Ruday, S., Azano, A. P., & Kuehl, R. (2022). Books as portals: Using place to understand rural students’ individuated reading experiences. *English in Education*, 56(2), 122–138.
- Kuehl, R. (2021). ‘We treat them like animals in a cage’: A dialogic exploration of *Refugee*. *Reading Horizons*, 60(3), 1–23.
- Kuehl, R. (2021). Critical tensions: Examining an attempt to encourage empathy through literature. *Journal of Children’s Literature*, 47(1), 127–133.
- Kuehl, R. (2020). Connecting to place in the literacy classroom. *Virginia English Journal*, 70(2), Article 3.

- Kuehl, R. (2020). A place for reading: Leveraging mentor texts with middle grade rural readers. *Journal of Literacy Innovation*, 5(2), 5–23.
- Kuehl, R., Azano, A. P., & Callahan, C. M. (2020). Gifted rural writers explore place in narrative fiction stories. *Theory & Practice in Rural Education*, 10(2), 26–45.
- Kuehl, R. (2020). Can children of different races “see” themselves in audiobooks? A comparison of U.S. library systems’ offerings. *Collection Management*, 46(1), 14–34.
- Kuehl, R. (2020). Faith in the journey: Teaching, parenting, and sharing the map. *English Journal*, 109(4), 98–100.
- LaCroix, T. J., & Kuehl, R. (2019). Working toward equity: A framework for exploring racial and ethnic diversity in teacher education programs. *The Teacher Educators’ Journal*, 12, 25–49.
- Kuehl, R. (2018). Motivating elementary writers through blogging: A review of the literature. *Reading in Virginia*, XL, 17–28.
- Kuehl, R. (2018). Using professional learning communities to advance preservice teachers’ understanding of differentiation within writing instruction. *The Teacher Educators’ Journal*, 11, 70–90.
- Kuehl, R. (2018). Writing in the age of technology: Using digital tools to enhance elementary composition instruction. *Virginia English Journal*, 67(2), 72–84.

Articles In Process

- Flowers, J. H., Azano, A. P., & Kuehl, R. (Accepted). Rural Black brilliance: Addressing the urgent need for racial equity in rural gifted education. *Journal of Advanced Academics*.
- Kuehl, R. (In process). ‘Here, you kind of have to be careful’: Attempting to build racial literacies in rural Appalachia.

Chapters in Edited Collections

- Kuehl, R. (In press). Studying rural teachers’ critical resolve amid an anti-CRT movement. For P. D. Grant, J. K. Roberts, & J. H. Flowers (Eds.), *Asset-based approaches to theory and practice in rural education: Leveraging local strengths in a globalized world*. Routledge.
- Kuehl, R. (In press). The next right thing: Seeking redress for settler colonialism with *Frozen II*. For A. E. Allen & D. Hicks (Eds.), *Hollywood or history? Global citizenship education*. Information Age Publishing.
- Azano, A. P., & Kuehl, R. (In press). The CLEAR curriculum model. For H. Hertberg-Davis & C. M. Callahan (Eds.), *Fundamentals of gifted education* (3rd ed.). Routledge.
- Kuehl, R. (2025). Unpacking racial trauma in *The Parker Inheritance*: Mourning as legacy in children’s fiction. In M. L. Johnson (Ed.), *Teaching historical racial trauma* (Digital humanities project). Virginia Tech Publishing.
<https://teachinghrt.vt.domains/index.php/unpacking-racial-trauma-in-childrens-fiction/>
- Kuehl, R. (2024). Welcoming Paddington: A lesson plan exploring the beloved bear’s immigration story with K–3 students. For L. K. Pennington, M. A. Kessler, P. Horst,

- M. E. Tackett, & D. Fortune (Eds.), *Hollywood or history? An inquiry-based strategy for using film to teach salient societal issues in elementary social studies*. Information Age Publishing.
- Kuehl, R., Callahan, C. M., & Azano, A. P. (2022). The forgotten many: Rural gifted learners. In J. Manzone & J. Nyberg (Eds.), *Creating equitable services for the gifted: Protocols for identification, implementation, and evaluation*. IGI Global.
- Azano, A. P., Callahan, C. M., & Kuehl, R. (2021). Challenges and innovative responses in rural gifted education. In A. P. Azano, K. Eppley, & C. Biddle (Eds.), *Bloomsbury handbook of rural education in the USA* (pp. 294–303). Bloomsbury.
- Kuehl, R. (2021). Rural families through the eyes of fourth-grade fiction writers. In A. P. Azano & C. M. Callahan (Eds.), *Gifted education in rural schools: Developing place-based interventions* (pp. 176–185). Routledge.
- Lindsey, J. B., Kuehl, R., & Mesmer, H. A. E. (2020). What's hot in literacy? Phonics and phonemic awareness. In E. Ortlieb, S. Grote-Garcia, J. Cassidy, & E. H. Cheek, Jr. (Eds.), *What's hot in literacy? Exemplar models of effective practice* (pp. 159–180). Emerald Publishing.

Dissertation

- Kuehl, R. (2020). *Fourth-grade narrative fiction writing: The intersection of place, high-ability, and creativity*. Amy Price Azano, Chair. <http://hdl.handle.net/10919/97918>

Book Reviews

- Kuehl, R. (2024). Review of *Race and rurality: Considerations for advancing higher education equity*. *Journal of Research in Rural Education*, 40(2), 1–6.
- Kuehl, R. (2022). Review of *Teaching in Rural Places*. *Virginia English Journal*.

Editorships

I was the editor of the Virginia Tech Center for Rural Education (CRE) Blog (2022–2026). During my tenure, we have published 33 posts from CRE faculty (9), CRE Scholars in Residence (2), CRE graduate students (4), CRE staff (1), VT students (5), and guest bloggers (12). rural.vt.edu/blog

With Chea Parton, I was guest editor of a special issue on rural young adult literature for *Study & Scrutiny: Research on Young Adult Literature* (Summer 2024).

- Kuehl, R., & Parton, C. (2024). Introduction: Rural young adult literature: Considering diversity and combatting erasure. *Study & Scrutiny: Research on Young Adult Literature*, 6(2), i–v.

Scholarly Blog Posts

- Kuehl, R. (2023, September 27). Lessons from Year 1 of a rural education fellowship. <https://rural.vt.edu/2023/09/28/lessons-from-year-1-of-a-rural-education-fellowship/>
- Kuehl, R. (2023, April 24). Investing in rural students. *Virginia Tech Center for Rural Education*. <https://rural.vt.edu/2023/04/24/investing-in-rural-students/>
- Kuehl, R. (2023, March 15). Dr. Barbara Lockee honored for her efforts in support of Indigenous students. *Virginia Tech Center for Rural Education*. <https://rural.vt.edu/2023/03/16/dr-barbara-lockee-honored-for-her-efforts-in-support-of-indigenous-students/>
- Kuehl, R. (2023, March 1). Representation matters: The rural literature library. *Virginia Tech Center for Rural Education*. <https://rural.vt.edu/2023/03/01/representation-matters-our-rural-literature-library/>
- Kuehl, R. (2022, November 21). Reading the past. *Virginia Tech Center for Rural Education*. <https://rural.vt.edu/2022/11/22/reading-the-past/>
- Kuehl, R. (2022, April 21). Introducing our site: A rural teacher collaboratory. *Virginia Tech Center for Rural Education*. <https://rural.vt.edu/2022/03/23/introducing-our-site-a-rural-teacher-collaboratory/>

Website Curation

I played a key role in developing the Center for Rural Education website (rural.vt.edu, launched Spring 2022). I curate and helped design the Rural Literature Library, a searchable collection of book titles set in rural places for elementary, middle grade, and young adult readers (2022–present). <https://rural.vt.edu/rural-literature-library>

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Convenings

With Dr. Amy Price Azano, I co-led efforts to convene the first (2022) and second (2023) iterations of the Rural Education Summit at Virginia Tech, each bringing together approximately 100 scholars and practicing educators from Virginia Tech, southwest Virginia, and across the United States.

Forthcoming: 2026, April, Los Angeles, CA. With Dr. Zeus Leonardo, I convened a symposium session for AERA's Critical Examination of Race, Ethnicity, Class, and Gender SIG called "Race, Rurality, and Education: Envisioning Educational Equity in Racialized Rural Spaces" (Dr. Joyce E. King, Chair). Papers to be presented include:

- Kuehl, R., & Leonardo, Z. Imagining the rural: Political economy and racialized representations of rurality in education and social research.
- Fanshel, R. The First Morrill Act and agricultural settler conquest: The case of the University of California.
- Tieken, M. Fighting back: School closure and resistance in the rural black South.

- Puente, M. The multi-scalar (de)construction of rural Latinidad and college (in)opportunities in California's San Joaquin Valley.

Juried Presentations

- Kuehl, R. (2026, April). Diversity unit as racial project: Lessons about identity for one BIPOC first-grader in rural Appalachia. AERA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.
- Kuehl, R., Eppley, K. (2025, November). "I guess I just want to belong here": Disrupting metronormativity through middle-grade novels. National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention, Denver, CO.
- Kuehl, R. (2025, April). Culturally relevant teachers are antiracist teachers: Enacting socially just pedagogies in rural Appalachia. AERA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Kuehl, R., Eppley, K., & Panozzo, M. (2025, April). Turns out, we really are everywhere: A queer critical content analysis of middle-grade rural books. AERA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Johnson, M., Lowery, C., Kuehl, R., & Bayne, H. (2025, April). Student perspectives on antiracist pedagogy: A qualitative exploration. AERA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Kuehl, R. (2025, March). Using children's literature to launch discussions of race in elementary classrooms: An anti-oppressive approach (K-6). Virginia State Literacy Association Annual Conference, Roanoke, VA.
- Eppley, K., Panozzo, M., & Kuehl, R. (2025, February). Queer rural representation in middle grade fiction. Children's Literature Assembly Online Research Conference (online).
- Kuehl, R., Eppley, K., & Panozzo, M. (2024, November). Queer and rural intersections in contemporary middle grade novels. National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention, Boston, MA.
- Kuehl, R. (2024, November). Rural literature library: A searchable online resource for teachers. National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention, Boston, MA.
- Kuehl, R. (2024, June). Culturally relevant pedagogy: Looking back and moving forward. The Margaret Sue Copenhaver Institute for Teaching and Learning, Roanoke College, Salem, VA.
- Kuehl, R. (2024, April). Contending with context: Neoliberal constraints and community barriers to antiracist literacy instruction in rural Appalachia. AERA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- Kuehl, R., & Grinage, J. (2024, April). Endless mourning and resistance to racial trauma in middle-grade fiction: Analysis of *The Parker Inheritance*. AERA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- Spencer, K., Scherer, H. H., Azano, A. P., Kuehl, R., Rasheed, M., Schilling, M., & Wright, H. L. (2023, May). Innovative idea: Using the FEW Nexus to engage middle-grade students in reasoning about local socio-ecological systems issues. American Association for Agricultural Education National Conference, Raleigh, NC.

- Azano, A. P., Kuehl, R., & Whitten, C. (2023, April). A critical, place-based approach to summer enrichment for gifted learners from rural communities. AERA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- Azano, A. P., & Kuehl, R. (2023, April). Equity and inclusion for multilingual learners in rural gifted education. AERA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- Kuehl, R., & Eppley, K. (2023, April). Representing rural: A critical content analysis of middle-grade novels set in rural places. AERA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- Whitten, C., Azano, A. P., Kuehl, R., & Mata, R. (2023, March). Celebrating community in a summer enrichment camp for rural students. Appalachian Studies Conference, Athens, OH.
- Anthony-Stevens, V., Benally, C., Boysen-Taylor, R., Kuehl, R., O'Connor, B., & Stevens, C. (2022, November). A critical democratic dialogue about anti-CRT policies with scholars, teachers, and youth. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.
- Brenner, D., Eppley, K., Parton, C., & Kuehl, R. (2022, October). Reading rural: Building community, agency, and creativity in literacy classrooms. National Forum to Advance Rural Education, Green Bay, WI.
- Kuehl, R., Bradley, N., Fortune, D., & Azano, A. P. (2022, October). Working together to recruit, prepare, and support rural teachers. Virginia Association of Colleges of Teacher Education Conference, Harrisonburg, VA.
- Kuehl, R., & Azano, A. P. (2022, October). Equity and excellence: Two models promoting rural renewal through gifted programming. Rural Renewal Symposium, Stillwater, OK. Poster session.
- Kuehl, R., Coady, M., & Farmer, T. (2022, August). Supporting academically diverse rural students and their teachers. Rural Education Summit, Blacksburg, VA. Working roundtable.
- Azano, A. P., Kuehl, R., Snyder, J. D., & Cromer, J. (2022, March). Possibilities and promise: A university-school division partnership to create sustainable gifted programming in Appalachia. 45th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference, Morgantown, WV.
- Whitten, C., Kuehl, R., & Azano, A. P. (2022, March). Identity and place: A recipe for developing a summer enrichment humanities curriculum for rural learners. Journal of Literacy Innovation Conference (online).
- Kuehl, R. (2021, November). Black lives matter in rural places, too: Helping rural students of color find "mirror" texts. National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention, online.
- Kuehl, R., & Azano, A. P. (2021, November). "There aren't books about people like me": Rural literacy representation. National Forum to Advance Rural Education, Indianapolis, IN.
- Azano, A. P., & Kuehl, R. (2021, November). Connecting to place in rural gifted education. National Forum to Advance Rural Education, Indianapolis, IN.

- Kuehl, R. (August, 2021). Rural elementary students' engagement with a place-based literacy curriculum: Examining evidence from their stories. International Symposium for Innovation in Rural Education, online.
- Azano, A. P., & Kuehl, R. (August, 2021). Serving gifted rural students through sustainable programs: Partnering to increase advanced learning opportunities. International Symposium for Innovation in Rural Education, online.
- Kuehl, R., Azano, A., & Callahan, C. (April, 2021). Bullying concerns in fourth-grade fiction illustrate our educational responsibility to safeguard writing instruction. [Paper presentation]. American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, online.
- Kuehl, R., Azano, A., & Callahan, C. (October, 2020). Discovering the possibilities for young writers: A deep dive into outstanding fourth-grade fiction to invigorate your writing instruction. International Literacy Association Conference, Columbus, OH. Workshop. *Canceled due to Covid19.*
- Kuehl, R. (March, 2020). The thinking/writing connection: Uncovering cognitive processes to elevate writing instruction. Virginia State Reading Association Conference, Roanoke, VA. *Canceled due to Covid19.*
- Kuehl, R. (March, 2020). *Refugee*: Building a better world through critical novel discussions. Virginia State Reading Association Conference, Roanoke, VA. *Canceled due to Covid19.*
- Kuehl, R., & Kuehl, D. J. (February, 2020). What is art? Energizing persuasive writing through philosophical debate. Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy, Blacksburg, VA.
- Kuehl, R. (November, 2019). Literature circles as a basis for spirited inquiry into the immigration debate. National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD.
- Kuehl, R. (October, 2019). Can children of different races "see" themselves in audiobooks? A comparison of six U.S. library system' offerings. International Literacy Association Conference, New Orleans, LA. Poster Session.
- Kuehl, R. (March, 2019). Equity in children's audiobooks: Investigating the diversity of six U.S. library systems' offerings. Graduate Student Association Research Symposium, Blacksburg, VA. Poster Session.
- Kuehl, R. (March, 2019). Empathy for immigrants: Strategies for using children's novels to foster understanding. Virginia State Reading Association Conference, Norfolk, VA.
- Kuehl, R. (February, 2019). Professional learning communities in teacher education: Learning to differentiate writing instruction. American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education Annual Meeting, Louisville, KY. Individual Paper Session.
- Kuehl, R. (February, 2019). Do white preservice teachers value diversity? A critical race theory examination. American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education Annual Meeting, Louisville, KY. Future Casting Session.

- Kuehl, R., & LaCroix, T. J. (January, 2019). Exploring equity in education: Skills and understandings for college students. Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy, Blacksburg, VA. Poster Session.
- Kuehl, R. (November, 2018). Today I will read! Secrets to sight word success with Elephant & Piggie. West Virginia Reading Association Conference, White Sulphur Springs, WV.
- Kuehl, R. (November, 2018). Using novels to gain historical and modern understandings of Mexican immigration. Virginia Conference for Social Studies Educators, Roanoke, VA.
- LaCroix, T. J., & Kuehl, R. (October, 2018). Skills and understandings related to diversity: A beginning repertoire for new teachers. Virginia Association of Colleges for Teacher Education/ Association of Teacher Educators in Virginia Fall Conference, Salem, VA.
- Kuehl, R. (September, 2018). Using professional learning communities to advance preservice teachers' understanding within writing instruction. Virginia Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Charlottesville, VA. *Conference canceled due to hurricane.*
- Kuehl, R. (August, 2018). Children's novels and the immigration debate: Fostering understanding through literature. RU World Ready? Global Education Conference, Radford, VA.
- Kuehl, R. (April, 2018). Online dialogue journaling: Partnering future teachers and urban elementary students. Virginia Council for Learning Disabilities Spring Symposium, Arlington, VA.
- Kuehl, R. (March, 2018). Can blogging relationships inspire preservice teachers to seek jobs in urban schools? Virginia State Reading Association Conference, Richmond, VA.
- Fogelson, D., & Kuehl, R. (March, 2018). Understanding nonfiction text structures in the elementary classroom. Virginia State Reading Association Conference, Richmond, VA.
- Fogelson, D., Kuehl, R., Caruso, C., & Barksdale, M. A. (February, 2018). Diversity and classroom management: Examining the impact of a boot camp for student teaching. Eastern Educational Research Association Conference, Clearwater, FL.
- Bizzell, B., Kuehl, R., & Talbot, P. (February, 2017). Getting real in real time: Moving from an asynchronous format to synchronous communities of practice for online engagement. Conference of Higher Education Pedagogy, Blacksburg, VA.

Invited Presentations

- Kuehl, R. (2025, June 17). Advances in Rural Gifted Education. 2025 Virginia Region VII Speaking for the Gifted Conference, Abingdon, VA. Invited presentation.
- Kuehl, R. (2023, November 3). Navigating an anti-CRT climate in rural places: How Appalachian teachers approach critical discussions about race in contentious times. Fellows Forum, National Academy of Education Fall Retreat and Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

- Kuehl, R. (2023, August). Teaching complex histories in rural places: How Appalachian teachers use literature to launch needed classroom discussions about race. Virginia Tech Rural Education Summit, Blacksburg, VA. Invited poster session.
- Kuehl, R. (2023, April). Antiracist critical literacy in rural Appalachia: Practices and possibilities. AERA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. Invited poster session.
- Kuehl, R. (2022, November 8). How do we foster social responsibility amongst readers in our classrooms and their families? [Online panel discussion]. ECEE 4400, Ohio University.
- Kuehl, R. (2022, November 2). Using literature to discuss pressing social issues. Presentation to EDCI 3024, Virginia Tech.
- Azano, A. P., & Kuehl, R. (2022, February). The power of place: Supporting rural gifted education. Kentucky Association for Gifted Education (online).
- Snyder, J. D., Kuehl, R., & Cromer, J. (2022, February 10). Closing the achievement gap for rural students in gifted programs. Online presentation to the Virginia Consortium of Gifted Education.
- Kuehl, R. (2020, November 17). Rural gifted education: Promising practices. [Panel discussion]. National Association for Gifted Children annual convention.
- Kuehl, R. (2020, October 21). Helping students who struggle with reading. Online presentation to EDCI 5444, Virginia Tech.
- Kuehl, R. (2020, October 6). Teaching rural students in high-poverty communities. Online presentation to EDCI 5914, Virginia Tech.
- Kuehl, R. (2018, June). Blogging: How communicating with others online can enhance learning. Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA), a project funded by the U.S. Department of State's Regional English Language Program in Pakistan, Virginia Tech.
- Kuehl, R. (2004–2006). Using publication to motivate young writers. Multiple venues, Northern VA.

Media and Performance

- Kuehl, R. (2023, September 7). *Stories matter: Leveraging the power of reading to build empathy across racial divides*. Faculty Nutshell Talks. Moss Arts Center, Virginia Tech.
- Kuehl, R. (2021, December 17). *Reading and writing rural*. Book City Roanoke [podcast episode].

TEACHING

Courses Taught: University of Oklahoma

EDLT 3143: Language and Literacy Development: Birth Through Age 5 (Fall 2026)

Courses Taught: Virginia Tech

EDCI 2004: Exploring the Teaching Profession (Spring 2026)

EDCI 6984: Rural Education Research (Fall 2025)

EDCI 3334: Teaching Language Arts in Elementary Classrooms (Spring 2025)
EDCI 5104: Schooling in U.S. Society (Fall 2024)
EDCI 3234: Foundations of Reading Instruction, Grades PreK–6 (Fall 2024)
EDCI 3464: Elementary Social Studies Methods (Fall 2024, Fall 2025)
EDCI 5264: Comprehension and Content Area Reading, Grades 7–12 (Spring 2024, Summer 2025, Spring 2026)
EDCI 4734: Adolescent Literacy and Reading (Spring 2024, Spring 2026)
EDCI 4264: Introduction to Reading Instruction (Spring 2020)
EDCI 5424: Comprehension and Content Area Literacy, Grades 3–6 (Teaching Assistant, Fall 2019)
EDCI 5204: Elementary School Curriculum (Instructor of Record, Spring 2018)
EDCI 5214: Linguistic Theory in Reading and Written Expression (Course Designer and Co-Instructor, Summer 2017)
Elementary Education Field Experience/Student Teaching Supervisor, 2016–2019

Courses Designed (Not Yet Taught)

EDCI Special Topics: Middle Grade Literature and Society (for Literacy Education doctoral students and/or Reading Specialist graduate students)
EDCI Special Topics: Critical Whiteness in Education (for Education doctoral students)
EDCI Special Topics: Teaching in Rural Places (for Preservice Teachers, graduate and undergraduate)
EDCI 5324: Language, Literacy, and Culture (for Reading Specialist graduate students)

Consulting Instruction / Workshop Presentations

Education Workshops Developed and Delivered

Scherer, H. H., Azano, A. P., Whitten, C. D., Kuehl, R., & Biviano, A. (2026, July 20–24). Storying the FEW-Nexus. [In-person professional development series]. Virginia Tech.
Azano, A. P., & Kuehl, R. (2023, June 1). Teaching literacy in rural places. [Webinar]. GLEAN Education + OSPI expert webinar series.
Allen, A., Fortune, D., Kuehl, R., & Lowery, C. (2023, January 9). Challenging topics: Opportunities for conversations. Presentation to the faculty of New River Community College.
Kuehl, R., & Azano, A. P. (2022, February–March). Four-part professional development series on rural gifted education, identification, and curriculum. [Online]. Surry County Public Schools.
Kuehl, R. (2020, September–October). Helping your beginning reader at home: Workshops for parents. [Webinar series, four sessions]. Southwest Center, Virginia Tech.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

2021 – 2022	Summer Enrichment Experience at Virginia Tech (SEE VT), Lead Science Curriculum Writer, Summer 2022 Curriculum
2020 – 2023	Appalachian Rural Talent Initiative (ARTI), Place-Based Curriculum Revisions Director, Third- and Fourth-Grade Language Arts Enrichment Curriculum (Fiction, Folklore, Poetry, & Research Units)

ADVISING

Doctoral Committees

2025 – 2026	Michael Coleman, Foundations of Education, Virginia Tech
2024 – 2026	Annie Shaba, Foundations of Education, Virginia Tech
2022 – 2024	Dr. Karin Kaerwer, Foundations of Education, Virginia Tech

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

University Service

Member, Inclusive School of Education (ISOE) Committee, Virginia Tech, 2021–2025 (Co-Chair 2024–2025; Vice Chair, 2021–2022)

Member, Search Committee, Professor of Practice, Career and Technical Education position, 2024

Member, Search Committee, Assistant Professor, Counselor Education position, 2023–2024

Scholarship Reviewer, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, 2023

Scholarship Reviewer, School of Education, 2023, 2024

Judge, Graduate Student Assembly Research Symposium, Virginia Tech, 2021

Member, Doctoral Exams Process Committee, Virginia Tech School of Education, 2020–2021

Professional Service

Member, Virginia Readers' Choice Committee, Middle School Level, 2025–present

Member, Children's and Young Adults' Book Awards Committee, Intermediate Level, International Literacy Association, 2020–2022 (Chair, 2021–2022)

Member, Dissertation Awards Committee, Rural Education SIG, American Educational Research Association, 2021–2022

Member, Newsletter Committee, Rural Education SIG, American Educational Research Association, 2021–2024 (Editor of "Rural at the Intersections" section)

Member, Ways and Means Committee, Children's Literature Assembly, National Council for Teachers of English, 2019–2023

Reviewer for Grants/Fellowships

National Academy of Education, 2025

National Science Foundation, 2024

Rural Renewal Seed Grants, Oklahoma State University, 2024

Rural Seed Grants, Center for Rural Education, Virginia Tech, 2022, 2023

Reviewer for Journals

Teacher Educators' Journal, 2025

English Education, 2021, 2023, 2024, 2025

Journal of Literacy Innovation, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

Journal of Research in Rural Education, 2021, 2023, 2024, 2025

Theory & Practice in Rural Education, 2020

The Rural Educator, 2021, 2022, 2024

Reviewer for Conferences

National Council of Teachers of English, 2022

Literacy Research Association Conference, 2021

American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (Writing & Literacies SIG, 2020, 2021; Rural Education SIG, 2021, 2023–2024; Division C, 2021; Division G, 2023; Critical Educators for Social Justice SIG, 2023; Critical Examination of Race, Ethnicity, Class, and Gender, 2023–2024)

Eastern Educational Research Association Annual Conference, 2019

Professional Affiliations

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

- ◆ Rural Education SIG
- ◆ Writing & Literacies SIG
- ◆ Critical Educators for Social Justice SIG
- ◆ Critical Examination of Race, Ethnicity, Class, and Gender SIG
- ◆ Division G, Social Context in Education

International Literacy Association (ILA)

Literacy Research Association (LRA)

National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE)

- ◆ Children's Literature Assembly (CLA)

National Rural Education Association (NREA)

Virginia Association of Teachers of English (VATE)

Virginia State Literacy Association (VSLA)

- ◆ Virginia College Literacy Educators (VCLE)