

Hannah B. Nieto

(formerly Hannah R. Brenner)

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EDUCATION

- 2024 **Ph.D. in Special Education**
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- 2020 **M.Ed. in Special Education – Severe/Multiple Disabilities**
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- 2015 **B.S. in Special Education**
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- Spring 2025-Present **Program Director, Special Education**
Education Department, School of Education and Health Sciences
North Central College, Naperville, IL
- Fall 2024-Present **Assistant Professor of Special Education**
Education Department, School of Education and Health Sciences
North Central College, Naperville, IL

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Nieto, H. B., & Dymond, S. K. (2026). Paraprofessionals as job coaches in community-based work experiences for students with extensive support needs. *Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities*. OnlineFirst. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15407969261438482>
- Price, R., Nieto, H. B., Donnelly, N., Li, C., & Ray, A. (2025). “A life that feeds her soul.” Caregivers’ perspectives on their youth with significant disabilities’ transition to employment. *Inclusion*, 13(4), 296–307. <https://doi.org/10.1352/2326-6988-13.4.296>
- Dymond, S. K., Nieto, H. B., Rooney-Kron, M. (2025). Qualifications, responsibilities, training, and supervision of paraprofessional job coaches. *Education and Training on Autism and Developmental Disabilities*, 60(3), 207–230. <https://doi.org/10.1177/21541647251386992>
- Rooney-Kron, M., Nieto, H. B., Malouf, E., Whittenburg, H., & Taylor, J. (2025). Teachers’ perceptions of key features of community-based work experiences. *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals*, 49(2), 76–88. <https://doi.org/10.1177/21651434241311541>
- Ray, A. B., Connor, K. E., Brenner, H. R., & Kim, C. (2024). Effect of an SRSD informative writing intervention for high schoolers with learning disabilities. *Learning Disabilities Quarterly*, OnlineFirst. <https://doi.org/10.1177/07319487241309888>

Rooney-Kron, M., Malouf, E. T., **Brenner, H. R.**, Taylor, J., Whittenburg, H., Carlson, S., & Avellone, L. (2024). A scoping review of pre-employment transition services for transition aged youth with disabilities. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*, 60(2), 163–174. <https://doi.org/10.3233/JVR-240003>

Brenner, H. R., & Dymond, S. K. (2023). Navigating challenges to work-based learning experiences: Responses from special educators. *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals*, 48(2), 76–87. <https://doi.org/10.1177/21651434231218708>

Brenner, H. R., & Dymond, S. K. (2023). Making every minute count: Identifying instructional opportunities for IEP goals during community-based work experiences. *Inclusive Practices*, 2(4), 83–90. <https://doi.org/10.1177/27324745231199708>

Brenner, H. R., & Dymond, S. K. (2023). Teachers' perspectives on challenges to providing work-based learning experiences for students with extensive support needs. *Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities*, 48(4), 186–202. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15407969231204611>

Under Review

Dymond, S. K., & **Nieto, H. B.** (under review). *Challenges to training and supervising paraprofessional job coaches*. Submitted to *Journal of Special Education*.

Malouf, E. T., Rooney-Kron, M., Frala, H., **Nieto, H. B.**, Whittenburg, H., Taylor, J. (under review). *Programmatic factors that impact the success of students with intellectual disabilities during community-based work experiences*. Submitted to *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals*.

In preparation

Nieto, H. B., & Dymond, S. K. (In preparation). *Job coach training: Insights from the field*.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Rooney-Kron, M., **Nieto, H. B.**, Malouf, E. T., Whittenburg, H., & Taylor, J. (in press). Preparing students with disabilities for work through community-based work experiences. In P. Wehman (Ed.) *Life Beyond the Classroom* (6th ed.). Paul Brooks.

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Instructor, North Central College (2024-present)

SPED 225: Disability Law and Policy
 SPED 227: Collaboration with Families, Caregivers, Professionals, and Community
 SPED 300: Assistive Technology for Exceptional Diverse Learners
 SPED 308: Social Emotional Learning Interventions for the Classroom and Individuals
 SPED 340: Teaching Communication, Reading, and Writing to Exceptional Diverse Learners
 SPED 466: Transition to Postsecondary Options

Co-Instructor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (2021-2022)

SPED 440: Instructional Strategies I

SPED 431: Assistive Technology and Physical Disabilities

University Practicum Supervisor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (2021-2022)
EDPR 250: School and Community Experiences

Invited Guest Lecturer

SPED 448: Curriculum Development II (Winter 2023). *Addressing barriers to curriculum development for students with extensive support needs: Being a change agent at your school.* Remote lecture. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.

SPED 448: Curriculum Development II (Fall 2023). *Longitudinal curriculum planning for students with extensive support needs.* Remote lecture. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.

SPED 592: Concepts and Issues in Special Education (Fall 2022). *Supporting new doctoral students in special education.* Remote panel discussion. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.

EDS 497: Educational Interventions: Cognitive Impairments (Spring 2022). *Transition planning for special educators: Paving the way to adulthood.* Remote lecture. Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI.

REHB 435: Work and Disability (Fall 2021). *Employment for individuals with disabilities.* In-person lecture. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.

SPED 432: Multiple Disabilities (Spring 2021). *Teaching students with progressive/degenerative disabilities.* Remote lecture. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.

SPED 590: ACCESS Seminar (Spring 2021). *Improving employment outcomes for students with disabilities: What can we do as teachers?* Remote lecture. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.

The Chicago School of Psychology (Spring 2018). *Functional behavior assessments and function-based behavior interventions.* In-person lecture. Chicago, IL.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Nieto, H. B. (December 2024). *Paraprofessionals' role in job coaching for students with ESN.* Breakout session. TASH Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Dymond, S. K., **Nieto, H. B.**, & Rooney-Kron, M. (December 2024). Qualifications, responsibilities, training, and supervision of paraprofessional job coaches. Breakout session. TASH Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Brenner, H. R., Rooney-Kron, M., Malouf, E., Whittenburg, H., & Taylor, J. (January 2024). *Implementing effective community-based work experiences for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.* Breakout session. Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD) Annual Conference. Honolulu, HI.

Mayer, J., **Brenner, H. R.**, & Strauser, D. (December 2023). New Illinois school-to-work transition

guide: An interagency collaboration. Breakout session. TASH Annual Conference. Baltimore, MD.

Brenner, H. R. (December 2023). *Using IEP matrices to identify instructional opportunities during community-based work experiences*. Breakout session. TASH Annual Conference. Baltimore, MD.

Rooney-Kron, M., **Brenner, H. R.**, Malouf, E., Whittenburg, H., & Taylor, J. (December 2023). *Key features of community-based work experiences for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities*. Breakout session. TASH Annual Conference. Baltimore, MD.

Rooney-Kron, M., **Brenner, H. R.**, Malouf, E., Whittenburg, H., Taylor, J., & Evans, J. (October 2023). *Essential features of community-based work experiences for students with intellectual disability*. Breakout session. Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) Annual Conference. Reno, Nevada.

Brenner, H. R., & Dymond, S. K. (October 2023). *Paraprofessionals' perceptions and implementation of workplace supports for students with extensive support needs*. Breakout session. Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) Annual Conference. Reno, Nevada.

Brenner, H. R. (December 2022). *Work-based learning experiences for students with extensive support needs: Overcoming challenges*. Breakout session. TASH Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ.

Brenner, H. R. (November 2022). *Overcoming challenges to providing work-based learning experiences for students with extensive support needs*. Breakout session. Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) Annual Conference, Little Rock, AR.

Brenner, H. R. (December 2021). *Overcoming challenges to providing work-based learning experiences*. Poster presentation. TASH Virtual Conference.

Price, R., **Brenner, H. R.**, Donnelly, N., Li, R. (December 2021). *Caregivers' perspectives on post-secondary employment outcomes for adolescents with significant disabilities*. Poster Presentation. TASH Virtual Conference.

Brenner, H. R., Lohman, C., & Tarle, J. (January 2020). *A blueprint for success: Increasing AT use in the classroom*. Breakout session. Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) Conference, Orlando, Florida.

STATE AND LOCAL PRESENTATIONS

Nieto, H. B., & Rooney-Kron, M. (April 2026). *Making community-based work programs work for students with IDD*. Breakout session. Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW) Annual Symposium. Champaign, IL.

Nieto, H. B., Dymond, S. K., & Rooney-Kron, M. (April 2026). *Making the most of job coach training: Important topics and preferred training formats*. Breakout session. Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW) Annual Symposium. Champaign, IL.

Nieto, H. B. (November 2025). *How do schools utilize paraprofessionals to help students with disabilities achieve employment?* Poster presentation. Illinois Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention. Naperville, IL.

- Dymond, S. K., **Nieto, H. B.**, & Rooney-Kron, M. (April 2025). *Use of paraprofessional job coaches in Illinois*. Breakout session. Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW) Annual Symposium. Champaign, IL.
- Brenner, H. R.** (April 2024). *Paraprofessionals' role in job coaching: Findings from a qualitative exploration*. Poster presentation. Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW) Annual Symposium, Champaign, IL.
- Brenner, H. R.** (November 2023). *New Illinois School-to-Work Transition Guide - Overview and Explanation*. Breakout session. Illinois Council for Exceptional Children (ICEC) Annual Convention. Naperville, IL.
- Strauser, D. R., Hanson, E., **Brenner, H. R.**, Truesdale, B., Mayer, J., Jones, R., & Rentmeister, A. (November 2023). *Rollout of new Illinois "School-to-Work Transition Guide." Overview and explanation*. General session. Illinois Statewide Transition Conference, Bloomington, IL.
- Brenner, H. R.** (April 2023). *Navigating barriers to work-based learning experiences: Responses from special educators*. Poster Presentation. Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW) Annual Symposium, Champaign, IL.
- Brenner, H. R.**, Osoba, S., & O'Donnell, J. (November 2022). *Building vocational programs from the ground up*. Breakout session. Illinois Statewide Transition Conference, Peoria, IL.
- Brenner, H. R.**, Osoba, S., & O'Donnell, J. (April 2022). *All good things take time: Building vocational programs from the ground up*. Breakout session. Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW) Annual Symposium, Champaign, IL.
- Malouf, E., & **Brenner, H. R.** (April 2022). *Establishing community partnerships for work-based learning experiences*. Breakout session. Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW) Annual Symposium. Champaign, IL.
- Brenner, H. R.** (April 2022). *Overcoming challenges to providing work-based learning experiences*. Poster Presentation. Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW) Annual Symposium. Champaign, IL.
- Brenner, H. R.**, & Malouf, E. (March 2022). *Transition planning for special educators: Paving the way to adulthood*. Breakout session. Illinois New Teacher Collaborative (INTC) Annual Leadership Conference, Champaign, IL.
- Brenner, H. R.**, (March 2022). *A review of the literature on challenges to providing work-based learning experiences*. Poster Presentation. Graduate Student Conference, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
*Received poster presentation award
- Brenner, H. R.**, Price, R., & Malouf, E. (March 2021). *Special education and vocational rehabilitation: The landscape of collaboration following WIOA*. Poster Presentation. Graduate Student Conference, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
- Brenner, H. R.**, Tarle, J., and Lohman, C. (March 2020). *A blueprint for success: Increasing AT use in the classroom*. Breakout session. Tech Talk, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, IL.

WEBINARS/VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS

Nieto, H. B. (September 2024). *Job coaching supports for paraprofessionals*. Transition Tennessee Webcast Series, Virtual. https://transitiontn.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Sept_JobCoaches_2024_WebcastPPT.pdf

Rooney-Kron, M., **Nieto, H. B.**, & Malouf, E. T. (July 2024). *Planning and implementing high-quality work-based learning experiences*. Long Island School Districts Town Hall, Virtual.

Phelan, M., & **Brenner, H. R.** (December 2022). *Overcoming challenges to providing work-based learning experiences*. Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW) Regional Workshop, Virtual. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJxkHJg4Z-Q&t=7s>

Brenner, H. R., & Strauser, D. G. (November 2022). *Job coaching for paraprofessionals*. Webinar.

K-12 TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2015-2020 **Low-Incidence Special Education Teacher**
Lincoln Park High School
Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, IL

POLICY EXPERIENCE

Summer 2023 Intern, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Office of the Director

- Develop presentations for OSEP director's speaking engagements
- Draft options memos for OSEP policy guidance
- Compose blog posts for OSEP's initiative on postsecondary transition
- Contribute to policy discussions

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CONSULTING

Technical Assistance and Consulting

2023-Present Content Developer, "Show Me College" Project (Grant #P407A200051)

- Create original content and resources for Show Me College website (www.showmecollege.com), which spreads awareness and provides support for students, families, and practitioners related to postsecondary education for students IDD in Missouri

2023-2024 Co-chair, Statewide Special Education and Vocational Rehabilitation Collaboration Study Group, Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW)

- Collaborated with Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) to develop and disseminate the *School-to-Work Transition Guide* which outlines transition services, roles, and responsibilities for service providers, students, and families in IL.

Summer 2023 Outside Consultant, Division of Intercollegiate Athletics (DIA) Learning

Services, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

- Create research-based, accessible learning resources for student athletes with disabilities

2022-2023 Outside Consultant, Special Education Vocational Program
Champaign Central High School, Champaign, IL

- Evaluated programmatic needs through data collection
- Developed and shared resources to improve student work experiences
- Developed trainings (e.g., job coach webinar) based on programmatic areas of need
- Connected with community businesses to establish new worksites

Resource Development

Brenner, H. R. (May 2021). *Work-based learning experiences* [Research brief]. Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW), Champaign, IL.

https://ictw.illinois.edu/docs/librariesprovider25/briefs/wioa/work-based-learning-experiences.pdf?sfvrsn=b45c646b_1

Brenner, H. R. (May 2021). *Work-based learning experiences (WBLEs)* [Fact sheet]. Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW), Champaign, IL.

https://ictw.illinois.edu/docs/librariesprovider25/fact-sheets/woia/wbles.pdf?sfvrsn=c28fa619_14

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

2021-Present Member-at-Large, TASH Early Career Researcher Network (ECRN)

- ECRN Mentor Program subcommittee
- ECRN Award subcommittee
- ECRN Fundraiser subcommittee

2023-2024 Member-at-Large, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Departmental Committee,
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

2021-2022 Doctoral Student Representative, Recruitment and Admissions
Committee, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

SERVICE/CITIZENSHIP

Institutional Service

Chapter Counselor, Kappa Delta Pi Honors Society (2026-present)

North Central College, Naperville, IL

Faculty Advisor - Éan Cairdinéalach Irish Dance Club (2025-present)

North Central College, Naperville, IL

Faculty Secretary (2024-2025, 2025-2026)

North Central College, Naperville, IL

Journal and Conference Proposal Reviewer

Conference Proposal Reviewer

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Convention (2023-present)
 CEC Teacher Education Division (TED) Annual Conference (2023-present)
 Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) Annual Conference (2022-present)
 TASH Annual Conference (2021-present)

Guest Journal Reviewer

Education and Training on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (ETADD)
Disabilities
Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals (CDTEI)
Inclusive Practices
Teacher Education and Special Education (TESE)
Remedial and Special Education (RASE)
Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities (RPSD)

Other

Instructor and Leader, New TA Orientation (Summer 2023)
 Doctoral Student Mentor, University of Illinois (2021-2024)
 Table Host, Community Conversations on Strengthening Inclusion of Students, Faculty, and Staff with Disabilities on Campus (April 2023)
 Judge, Undergraduate Research Symposium, University of Illinois (2020-2021)
 Secretary, Special Education Graduate Student Association, University of Illinois (2020-2021)
 Treasurer, Special Education Graduate Student Association, University of Illinois (2020-2021)
 New Teacher Mentor, Lincoln Park High School, Chicago, IL (2018-2020)

AWARDS, HONORS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2024	Alice H. Hayden Emerging Leader Award TASH
2022-2023	Robert and Linda Hauser Graduate Award in Special Education Department of Special Education, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
2022	Poster Presentation Award, Graduate Student Conference, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
2021-2022	Robert and Linda Hauser Graduate Award in Special Education Department of Special Education, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2020-2025 Secondary Curriculum that leads to Outcomes & Research in Employment for youth with severe disabilities (SCORE). Office of Special Education Programs Leadership Grant. Dr. Stacy K. Dymond, Principal Investigator.
- 2018-2020 Innovative ACCESS to Curriculum for Students with Severe Disabilities. Office of Special Education Programs Personnel Preparation Grant. Dr. Stacy K. Dymond, Principal Investigator.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

TASH (formerly The Association for the Severely Handicapped)
Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
 Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT)
 Division for Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD)
 Teacher Education Division (TED)