

April 30, 2019
To Whom it May Concern,

Hello, I am Pearl Dean Garden. I have been in education for 20 years. I have a master's degree in Curriculum and instruction and in Advanced Literacy- with a Reading Specialist certification. I also hold certifications in SPED, ESL, and EC-6. I am working on my doctorate in Supervisory-Curriculum and Instruction- Elementary Education with an emphasis in reading. I worked for my first 20 years in education in Dallas ISD as an elementary teacher with my last four years as an Instructional Specialist. I begin work with Region 10 as a Literacy Specialist May 1, 2019. I am also an adjunct professor at Paul Quinn College where I teach reading courses to future educators who are seeking their EC-6 teacher certification.

I have been a member of TALE and ILA for the last 4 years. Each of those years I have attended and presented at the TALE conference. I have used and shared resources that have been shared through the TALE newsletters and other email blasts. I have been a peer reviewer for the yearbook and have submitted writing for publishing. I am also a member of TALE's Educators Empowerment Committee where I get to be a voice for educators in the state of Texas. I have always had a focus on and love for literacy.

As a TALE At -Large Director, I will continue to be a voice for literacy educators across the state. I bring a passion for the novice educator and would like to see programs that get preservice and new in-service educators more involved in our literacy programs by creating activities and events target specifically for them. We (Educator's Empowerment Committee) began a Book Study Series that has been quite successful on Facebook and twitter. I would love to involve my students at Paul Quinn and students at other colleges and universities across the state in these as well.

As an educator with a passion for literacy and literacy educators, I feel I am a good fit for one of the three At-Large Director positions. I will serve to my full capacity throughout my term and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Pearl Dean Garden

Pearl D. Garden

Improving Performance • Enhancing Programs • Inspiring Systemic Change
pgarden@dallasisd.org | 214.908.9378 | <http://www.pearldeangarden.com/>

EXPERIENCED INSTRUCTIONAL SPECIALIST

...dedicated to guiding teachers to succeed while inspiring an insatiable passion for literacy and learning.

Patient Leader, Bridge Builder and Certified Educator with 20 years' experience effectively instructing educators and creating successful learning programs.
Matriculating *Doctoral Student* at Texas A & M-Commerce.

EDUCATION

M.Ed., Advanced Literacy Concordia University
M.Ed., Curriculum and Instruction, University of Phoenix
B.S., Kinesiology, Texas A&M-Commerce

CERTIFICATIONS

K-12 Special Education | English as a Second language | Early Childhood - 6th grade
K-12 Reading Specialist
Certified Teachstone CLASS K-2 Observer, Trainer & Rater

ORGANIZATIONS & AFFILIATIONS

Omicron Mu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.-Education Committee
Pi Lambda Theta Honor Society

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- **Adjunct Professor-** Using Flipped Classroom and blended learning structures to educate teacher-education students. Responsible for *designing coursework* and delivering lectures in a in-person and online
- **Professional Development/Literacy Coach/Instructional Specialist-** Responsible for training and coaching educators on best practices in literacy and other content area education, as well as **creating** and **presenting** summer professional development for Dallas ISD k-2 educators.
- **Instructional Leadership** - Balanced blend of motivational and targeted instruction methodologies to enhance curricula, focus on the three 'R's - rigor, relevancy and relationships. **Teacher Leader, Teacher Mentor, Teacher Motivator, Teacher Coach**
- **Managed 20 teachers**, made schedules, coordinated the 21st Century Learning Grant funded after-school and summer enrichment programs.
- **Competent in General Education and Special Education best practices** and good first instruction as well as RTI, scaffolding, and differentiated instruction in the elementary classroom setting.

HIGHLIGHTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor-Teacher Education
Paul Quinn College

August 2018-Present

Reading Teacher of Teacher Education Students

- Create and design lessons for lectures
- Use technology and web-based platforms for delivering online and face to face lectures
- Sit on an advisory council for Pearson to advise for the Science of Teacher Reading Texas Teacher Certification

Early Learning Department-Central Administration

Dallas Independent School District

August 2015 –Present

Professional Development/Instructional Specialist

- Mentor, coach, and train K-2 content area educators on research-based best practices
- Create research-based professional development sessions for educators.
- Present information about current research-based best practices to teachers and administrators

J. P. Starks Math Science and Technology Vanguard Elementary School

Dallas Independent School District

August 2013- 2015

Teacher: Second Grade

- Plan lessons using the school district’s curriculum guides and state standards
- Grade level team lead responsible for getting administrators updates to my team
- Created and administered assessments and use the data to drive my classroom instruction

H. I. Holland at Lisbon Elementary School

Dallas Independent School District

August 2005-2013

Teacher: Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

- Grade level chair
- Used research-based best practices and assessments to drive classroom instruction
- Science Fair Coordinator

Special Education Self-Contained Teacher--August 2005-2013

- Work with students with various disabilities
- Planned lessons to work with different academic abilities
- Use differentiation to implement lessons for the different ability groups
- Adhere to IEP write and readjust expectations
- Complete and keep current state mandated and required documentation

21st Century Grant Site Coordinator--August 2005-2010

- Manage the 21st Century Grant After-School program.
- Budgeted grant money
- Scheduled classes for students to take
- Managed a staff of 20 teachers
- Kept contact with parents of about 60 k-5th grade students

- Kept efficient record of staff, budgets, schedules
- Created documents (Excel and Word) for record keeping
- Attended monthly meeting with the project managers
- Worked directly with outside vendors to solicit and use their services

HIGHLIGHTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- Serve as an advisory board member for DALLAS ISD's racial advisory council.
- Serve on the Framework Review Council for the Texas Educator Certification Examination Program.
- Contributed to a significant increase in student performances on standardized and norm referenced testing.
- Provide instructional and administration leadership as the site coordinator for the 21st century after-school grant funded program, during a five-year grant program in which 100 to 200 children were served in each of those years. The overarching goal of the program is to assist all students and their parents in having fun and safe environment after-school hours.
- Train educators on using data to drive instruction in the literacy classroom
- Mentored, Coached, and Train k-2 educators
- Partnered in the creation of summer professional development for k-2 educators in Dallas ISD.
- Worked with a team create a set of common math core beliefs for my district's math educators
- Presented critical math update from summer professional development to Dallas ISD principals
- Created and presented a seminar on read-alouds at TALE 2017 and TALE 2018 and Bill Martin Jr Symposium (2016 and 2017)
- Participated in the A & M-Commerce Research Symposium 2018

Vita

Spring 2018

Pearl Dean Garden

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Dallas, Texas 75216

214 908-9378

twentypearls@hotmail.com :

<http://www.pearldeangarden.com/>

PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

Professional Development, Coaching, Mentoring, Educating, and Training of teachers (pre-service, in-service, and veterans).

EDUCATION

BS Education (ETSU 1996)

M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction (University of Phoenix-Online 2007)

M.Ed. Advanced Literacy (Concordia University-Texas 2015)

Current Doctoral Student Third year of Coursework (Texas A&M-Commerce)

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

Special Education K-12

ESL K-12

EC-6

Reading Specialist EC-12

CLASS K-3 Certified

EXPERIENCE

Educational

READ-Grant Literacy Coach Region 10 Educational Service Center Richardson,
Texas

May 1, 2019 – Present

Adjunct Professor (teacher education) Paul Quinn College- Dallas, Texas

Fall 2018- Present

Instructional Specialist (K-2), Early Learning Department, Dallas ISD

2015- Present

2nd Grade (All subjects) Teacher, J.P. Starks Math, Science and Technology
Vanguard Elementary

2013-2015

Spring 2018

2nd Grade Teacher (Reading and Science) H.I. Holland at Lisbon Elementary
2012-2013

1st Grade Teacher (All Subjects), H.I. Holland at Lisbon Elementary
2011-2012

4th Grade (Science and Social Studies) Teacher, H.I. Holland at Lisbon
Elementary
2010-2011

1st Grade Teacher (All Subjects) H.I. Holland at Lisbon Elementary
2009-2010

3rd Grade Teacher (All Subjects) H.I. Holland at Lisbon Elementary
2008-2009

5th Grade Teacher (Reading/ Language Arts) H. I. Holland at Lisbon Elementary
2007-2008

SPED Self Contained (All Subjects) H. I. Holland at Lisbon Elementary
1997-2007

SPED Teacher's Assistant (Middle School FLS) Patti Welder Intermediate
School
1996

Professionally Related

Consulting
Classroom Management
Classroom Design
Instructional Design
Behavior Management
Lesson Planning
Teacher Training
CLASS K-3 Trainer
Instructional Coaching
Presentation Preparation
Professional Development

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND HONORARIES

American Educational Research Association
International Literacy Association
Texas Association of Literacy Education
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
Texas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Education Committee Co-Lead for Scholarship Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. –
Omicron Mu Omega Chapter

Area 5 School Board Appointee to the Dallas ISD Racial Equity Council

Texas Association for Literacy Educators (TALE) Educators Empowerment Committee

HONORS, AWARDS, AND LISTINGS

PUBLICATIONS

Journals

Araujo, J., Blaylock, J., Garden, P., Hogg, S., Larue, L., Murillo, D., Still, B., & Venters, A.
(with Patterson, L.) (In Press). Using action research in a literacy graduate classroom to
connect theory to practice: a replication study. *Journal of Teacher Action Research*, 1-23.

Blogs

Garden, Pearl. The Art of the Read-Aloud. *The Art of Teaching*. McGraw-Hill. April 5, 2018.
medium.com/inspired-ideas-prek-12/the-art-of-the-read-aloud-5847af75c792

PEER JOURNAL REVIEWER

Vita

Spring 2018

TALE (Texas Association for Literacy Educators) Yearbook 2017 Reviewer
Early Years (Journal of the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children 2018
Reviewer

PRESENTATIONS

State and Local

Garden, P. (March 2019) *Presenter TALE 2019 Conference*. Vocabulary Instruction: Easy Ideas For Educators.

Garden, P (July 2018) *College of Education and Human Services Professional Development Day 2018* Best Practices in Literacy Instruction for New Teachers

Garden, P (April 2018) *A&M-Commerce Research Symposium*. Poster Presentation
What Research Says About Vocabulary Instruction and the Read-Aloud.

Garden, P (February 2018) *Presenter TALE Conference 2018*
What Research Says About Vocabulary Instruction and the Read-Aloud.

Garden, P (June & July 2017) *Presentation to Teachers in Dallas ISD* High-Level Task

Garden, P (May 2017) *Bill Martin Jr. Symposium* May 2017 Co-Presenter with Deborah Murillo. I've Completed a Read-Aloud; Now What Can I Do with it?

Garden, P (February 2017) *Presenter TALE conference 2017*
I've Completed a Read-Aloud; Now What Can I Do with it?

Garden, P (June & July 2016) *Presentation to Dallas ISD teachers* on Guided Reading

Garden, P (April 2016) *Bill Martin Jr. Symposium* Co-Presenter with Deborah Murillo and Darci Gueta. Vocabulary Instruction

Vita

Spring 2018

March 15, 2019

Buffey Miller
1145 Sophia Street
Allen, Texas 75013

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Pearl Garden. Pearl is currently working as an Instructional Specialist in the Early Learning Department of Dallas ISD. I worked closely with Pearl from July 2018 to August 2019 on the ACE instructional specialist team. I got to know Pearl very well during this time.

I have shadowed and observed Pearl in various instructional and professional settings. Her knowledge of literacy, curriculum, and instruction make Pearl an ideal candidate to work in a literacy leader capacity. Her commitment and passion to education, especially in the area of literacy, are outstanding. Pearl has a passion for literacy, instruction, education, coaching, and leadership. This is all evident with her current doctoral studies and research.

Pearl is very driven and organized and develops inspiring relationships with her administrators, teachers, and colleagues. She is adept in program development, evaluation, and implementation. Pearl has experience in coaching and developing teachers, coaches, and specialists. She also has knowledge and experience in training, presenting, curriculum writing, and developing and delivering professional development, training sessions, and other professional learning opportunities and sessions.

Pearl accomplishes tasks with great initiative and always has a positive attitude. I recommend Pearl Garden to you without reservations. If you have any further questions with regard to her qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Buffey Jones Miller
buffeyj@hotmail.com
(214)732-9391



May 1, 2019

Dr. Juan J. Araujo
Associate Professor and
Assistant Department Head
Curriculum and Instruction
PO Box 3011
Commerce, Texas 75429
Juan.araujo@tamuc.edu

Dear TALE Board:

I am honored to write a recommendation letter in support of Ms. Pearl Garden. In total, I have known Pearl for more than three years as her professor, friend, as the Assistant Head for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, and as a colleague.

Since 2016, I have witnessed Pearl complete exceptional work as a doctoral student, staunch advocate for the education field, and as a researcher in reading education. For this work she has consistently earned high marks. In particular, I am impressed with the level of energy and inquisitiveness she approaches every project she tackles. It is clear to me that she is willing to learn new things, look for ways to incorporate innovative professional development perspectives and practices, and more importantly as it pertains to seeking this job—is still pursuing ways to answer the burning questions that keep her up at night as they pertain to reading and its instruction.

I have no doubt that Pearl will be an exemplary addition to the Texas Association of Literacy Educators. I come to this conclusion based on Pearl's performance at Texas A&M University-Commerce where I have been her doctoral professor for multiple literacy research courses.

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

P.O. Box 3011 Commerce, Texas 75429-3011 • Phone: 903-886-5537, 5669 or 5307 • Fax: 903-886-5581

www.tamuc.edu/edci

I recommend, without reserve, that you consider Ms. Pearl Garden for the TALE Board as At-Large Director opening. You will not be disappointed with her qualifications and commitment to literacy and her willingness to learn. If you have any questions about her qualifications please feel free to contact me at (214) 952-6865 or juan.araujo@tamuc.edu at your convenience.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juan Araujo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Juan" being more prominent than the last name "Araujo".

Dr. Juan Araujo
Associate Professor &
Assistant Department Head
Curriculum and Instruction
Texas A&M University-Commerce

April 24, 2019

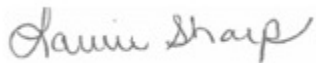
To Whom It May Concern:

I have the distinct pleasure of providing a letter of Pearl Garden in support of her nomination for TALE At-Large Director. Ms. Garden is a certified reading specialist and currently serves as a READ-Grant Literacy Coach through TEA and Region 10 ESC. She previously served as an Early Learning Instructional Specialist for Dallas ISD. Ms. Garden is also a doctoral student at Texas A&M University - Commerce, where she is working to earn a Supervision, Curriculum, and Instruction Doctor of Education degree with an emphasis in reading. I have known Ms. Garden for several years through TALE and feel she will be an excellent addition to the TALE Board.

Ms. Garden has well over 20 years of literacy teaching experiences with children. She is quite knowledgeable about effective literacy learning and teaching, with particular expertise in early literacy. Ms. Garden also has many experiences with teaching adult learners, as she has served as a supervisor of practicing teachers and a part-time instructor at Paul Quinn College. Ms. Garden also values scholarship within the field of literacy. She has authored pieces for the TALE Yearbook that describe evidence-based literacy instructional practices. Additionally, Ms. Garden regularly creates resources for use within her professional role. Furthermore, Ms. Garden has been an active and contributing member within TALE for a number of years. Ms. Garden regularly attends the annual conference and also leads presentations for attendees. Ms. Garden has also been an active member in TALE committees, including TALE's Educator Empowerment Committee. Her commitment to TALE and promoting its growth is clear.

It is evident that Ms. Garden would be an asset to TALE and its mission, so I highly support her nomination as a TALE At-Large Director. Ms. Garden will bring a unique perspective and be able to serve the organization in a more impactful manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Sharp".

Laurie A. Sharp, Ed.D.
TALE Past Chair, 2018-2019
laurie.sharp2013@gmail.com