**Education**

B.S., M.A. - Central Michigan University

Ph.D. Candidate - The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

**Biography**

I recently joined the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department at WCU as an Assistant Professor this fall. I have been a speech pathologist for 25 years working with both children and adults in a variety of settings, including public schools, skilled nursing facilities, rehab hospitals, and telepractice. I recently had the opportunity to live for a year in China where I helped successfully open up the first Western-style pediatric therapy center in Beijing. While living in China, I had the opportunity to present at the United States Embassy on the topic of language development and also presented at the Special Education Network in Asia Conference in Bangkok, Thailand on the topic of collaboration. I am currently completing my dissertation on the influence of temperament and social skills on quality of friendship in adolescents with and without learning disabilities. My research interests include autism and social skills as well as language development in third culture kids.

Western Carolina is the perfect place for me to be as I love the mountains and being outdoors. I’m a very proud mom of two grown children, Ryan and Rachael, who are both attending college in the triad area of North Carolina. My active little dog Ben (a shih-tzu) is making the nest not so empty.