

## Jennifer White - Outstanding Faculty Teaching and Mentoring Award



Assistant Professor of Practice Jennifer White has been teaching since 2001, when she started her career as a special education teacher in Virginia. An enthusiastic educator, she consistently demonstrates her passion for teaching, mentoring, and ultimately, uplifting her students. With in-depth expertise in all areas of special education, including learning disabilities, early education, and multisensory structured language, she effectively connects her lessons to real world experiences.

Students describe her classes as interesting and organized and they especially call attention to her engaging teaching strategies, which combine a variety of icebreaker and hands-on exercises, class discussion, and practice in instructional techniques. Although the subject matter in her courses can be challenging, students express feeling encouraged and supported by her reassuring demeanor. Her innate ability to ensure students feel safe and comfortable goes beyond the classroom, however. White is known by her students as someone they can depend on to help guide them through difficult situations. She is determined to help her students succeed both in and outside of the classroom.

A testament to her commitment to mentorship, White was one of only six selected for the Council for Learning Disabilities Leadership Academy, an organization committed to building the leadership capacity of emerging leaders in the field of special education. The CLD selects candidates who demonstrate potential and a passion for leadership in service of students with learning disabilities. This commitment demonstrates White's dedication to both furthering the development of the special education field and growing as both mentor and mentee.

An excellent instructor and dependable mentor, White consistently shows up for her students. She is an incredible asset to the Department of Disability and Psychoeducational Studies and is a remarkable example of what it means to be a devoted educator.