

Austina De Bonte – Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

Bridges Graduate School of Cognitive Diversity in Education (2021 – present)

Certificate in Twice Exceptional Education, 2022

Doctor of Education, expected graduation in 2023

Doctoral student in Ed.D. program, with a concentration in Educational Leadership, equitable identification, and twice exceptional students.

Advisor: Dr. Susan Baum. Doctoral Committee: Dr. Matt Fugate (chair), Dr. Joy Lawson Davis, Dr. Sally Krisel

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, M.Eng., S.B. (1993 – 1998)

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering

Masters of Engineering in Computer Science

Masters thesis work in the MIT Media Lab's Epistemology and Learning Group on constructionist, community-based learning environments for elementary age students to learn computer programming.

Advisor: Dr. Mitchell Resnick. Mentor: Dr. Amy Bruckman.

POSITIONS

Consultant, Smart is not Easy, LLC, www.smartisnoteasy.com (2017 – present)

Private consultant providing consulting for school district teams, professional development for educators, parent education, and individual parent/family consulting.

President, WA Coalition for Gifted Education, www.wacoalition.com (2021 – present)

WA statewide organization for legislative advocacy.

President/Past President, NW Gifted Child Association (NWGCA), www.nwgca.org (2010 – present)

WA statewide non-profit organization for families with gifted children. Membership of 3,600 families.

President from 2012-2021. Currently serving on the Executive Board as Past President.

President, Northshore HiCap Parents Council, www.hcparents.org (2008 – present)

Non-profit for parents of highly capable children in the Northshore School District. Membership of 3,800 families.

Member, WA State OSPI Gifted Advisory Committee (2017 – present)

Advising the WA state superintendent of public instruction on matters relating to highly capable programs.

Facilitator, SENG Model Parent Discussion Groups (2013 – present)

Facilitating parent discussion groups for families with gifted or 2e students.

Advisor/Partner, The G Word Film, www.thegwordfilm.com (2017 – present)

Member of advisory board and partner for groundbreaking documentary about gifted individuals, equity, and neurodiversity.

Member, NAGC Parent Editorial Content & Advisory Board, www.nagc.org (2016 – 2019)

Reviewing articles for publication in the Parenting for High Potential Magazine, authoring content, and assisting with annual convention, including reviewing proposals and supporting Parent Day.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

WA Coalition for Gifted Education (wacoalition.com), President (2021 – present)
NW Gifted Child Association (nwgca.org), Past President (2021-present), President (2012-2021)
Northshore Highly Capable Parents Council (hcaparents.org), Co-President/President (2008 – present)
WA Gifted Advisory Board, Member
National Association for Gifted Children (nagc.org), Member, PECAB Committee (2016-2019)
Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (sengifted.org), Member
World Council for Gifted and Talented Children (world-gifted.org), Member
Gifted Homeschoolers Forum (ghflearners.org), Member
Washington Association of Educators of the Talented and Gifted (waetag.org), Member

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATORS

February 2023: WAETAG Monthly Webinar
Getting to the Root of 2E: Beyond the Usual Suspects
December 2022: North Carolina Association for Gifted & Talented, Talent Unleashed, invited session
One School District's 6-Year Equity Journey with Universal Screening and Local Norms
May 2022: Sumner/Bonney Lake School District, 2-hour PD session
Smart is not Easy – What Research Says about Highly Capable Learners
January 2022: North Carolina Association of the Gifted and Talented, Talent Unleashed, invited session
One School District's 5-Year Equity Journey with Universal Screening and Local Norms
September/October 2021: 4-Session PD series for Monroe & Sultan School Districts
Smart is not Easy – What Research Says about Highly Capable Learners
March 2020: Rehab Seminars, Full day PD in Seattle, WA
Smart is not Easy – What Research Says about Highly Capable Learners
March 2020: Blaine School District, Half day consult
Program models & equitable identification strategies
February 2020: NW ESD 189 (Anacortes), Full day PD for Hi-Cap Cooperative (Districts across the ESD)
January 2020: Northshore School District, 1-hour PD for Canyon Park Middle School, all staff
January 2020: Central Kitsap School District
2-hour PD session
Parent evening presentation
January 2020: Lynden School District
3-hour PD for HiCap specialists
1.5-hour PD for superintendent leadership team
Parent evening presentation
November 2019: Multicare Behavioral Health, Puyallup, PD session
October 2019: Shoreline School District
Presentation and consult with HiCap Committee
August 2019: Central Kitsap School District, Three 90-minute PD sessions
June 2019: Central Kitsap School District, Two 3-hour PD sessions
May 2019: Sumner School District, 2-hour PD session

January 2019: NW ESD 189 (Anacortes), Full day PD for Hi-Cap Cooperative (Districts across the ESD)

January 2019: Arlington School District
 3-hour PD, all elementary staff
 2-hour consult, HiCap Committee

December 2018 – February 2019: Central Kitsap School District
 Two consultation site visits, phone consultation, data analysis for administrators & HiCap Committee

August 2018: Mount Vernon School District, 1.5 hour PD session, LaVenture middle school staff

August 2018: Kent School District, Full day PD for all school counselors

February 2018: ESD 113 (Olympia/Tumwater), 3-hour PD session

January 2018: Camas School District, 2-hour PD session for all staff

January 2018: Shoreline School District, 2-hour PD session for elementary staff

January 2018: Burlington-Edison School District, 2-hour PD session, district offices

October 2017: NW ESD 189 (Anacortes), 3-hour keynote presenter, plus breakout session
 What Educators and Administrators Need to Know About Smart Kids
 Peeling the Onion: Equity in Highly Capable (HiCap)

October 2017: Leavenworth School District, 2-hour PD for all staff, Cascade School District

September 2017: Mount Vernon School District, PD for elementary and middle cluster group teachers

August 2017: Mount Vernon School District, PD for Jefferson Elementary, all staff

June 2107: Seattle School Board, presentation on Equity in HiCap for school board study session

March 2017: Mount Vernon School District, 3-hour PD session for Elementary PD Day

March 2017: Lake Stevens School District, 2-hour PD session for Lake Stevens Middle School, all staff

January 2017: Federal Way School District, 2-hour PD session for Highly Capable staff

October 2016: Leota Junior High School, Science Department

August 2016: Lake Stevens School District, 3-Hour PD session for Highly Capable staff

March 2016: King County Juvenile Court, 2-hour PD session for King County truancy officers

January 2016: Madison Middle School, PD session Madison Middle School, all staff

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS GIVEN

February 2023: William & Mary 2e 23 Conference (online)
 Getting Students Writing – How to Support Twice Exceptional Students and Other Reluctant Writers

February 2023: Gift-a-Palooza (online)
 Getting to the Root of 2E: Beyond the Usual Suspects

November 2022: NAGC 2022 Conference, Full concurrent sessions (Indianapolis, IN)
 One School District's 6-Year Equity Journey with Universal Screening and Local Norms
 I Think This Student is 2e, But Now What? Getting to the Root Causes of Twice Exceptionality
 Drilling Down on Universal Screening and Local Norms (invited panel)

October 2022: WAETAG 2022 Conference, Breakout presenter
 Getting Students Writing – How to Support Twice Exceptional Students and Other Reluctant Writers

October 2022: NW Gifted Child Association, Equity in HiCap Week (online)
 Smart is not Easy – What Research Says about Highly Capable Learners

October 2022: SENG Mini Conference (Bellevue, WA)
 Getting Students Writing – How to Support Twice Exceptional Students and Other Reluctant Writers

October 2021: The G Word G/T/N Awareness Week (online)

Gifted Education in New York City: Getting at the Heart of the Equity Question (panel)
October 2021: WA Coalition for Gifted Education, Benefit Event, Keynote presenter (online)
Smart is not Easy – What Research Says about Highly Capable Learners
July 2021: World Council for Gifted and Talented Children, 2021 Virtual World Conference (online)
One School District's 5-Year Equity Journey with Universal Screening and Local Norms
May 2021: Gifted Homeschooler's Forum (online)
Is My Kid 2e? How Do I Know, and What Do I Do About It?
June 2020: NWGCA Webinar, Keynote presenter (Online)
What Parents & Educators Need to Know About Highly Capable Kids
April 2020: NWGCA Webinar, Keynote presenter (Online)
What Parents & Educators Need to Know About Highly Capable Kids
March 2020: Rehab Seminars, Full Day Seminar presenter (Seattle, WA)
Smart is not Easy – What Research Says about Highly Capable Learners
February 2020: Whitworth University Gifted Education Institute, Breakout presenter (Spokane, WA)
I Think This Student is 2e... But What Kind? Now What?
May 2019: SENG Regional Conference, Breakout presenter (Olympia, WA)
Social Development in HiCap Students...and why it can all fall apart in 4th grade
March 2019: WA School Counselor's Association, Breakout presenter (Seattle, WA)
What Parents & Educators Need to Know About Highly Capable Kids
December 2018: NW ESD Social Emotional Learning Summit, Breakout presenter (Anacortes, WA)
What Parents & Educators Need to Know About Highly Capable Kids
November 2018: SENGinar Series, Webinar presenter (Online) – sold out!
Smart is not Easy: What Grit and Growth Mindset Really Mean for the Gifted Student
November 2018: National Association for Gifted Children, Full concurrent session (Minneapolis, MN)
Social Development in HiCap Students...and why it can all fall apart in 4th grade
October 2018: WAETAG 2018 Conference, Breakout presenter x2 (Bellevue, WA)
Smart is not Easy: What Grit and Growth Mindset Really Mean for the Gifted Student
Social Development in HiCap Students...and why it can all fall apart in 4th grade
July 2018: Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG), Breakout presenter (San Diego, CA)
Social Development in Gifted Children, and Why It Can All Fall Apart in 4th Grade
March 2018: WA School Counselor's Association, Breakout presenter (Seattle, WA)
What Parents & Educators Need to Know About Highly Capable Kids
November 2017: National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), Full concurrent session (Charlotte, NC)
October 2017: WAETAG 2017 Conference, Breakout presenter x2 (Tacoma, WA)
August 2017: Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG), Breakout presenter (Naperville, IL)
April 2017: WA State PTA Convention, Breakout presenter (Seatac, WA)
What Parents & Educators Need to Know About Highly Capable Kids
November 2016: National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), Full concurrent session (Orlando, FL)
What Parents & Educators Need to Know About Highly Capable Kids
November 2016: NW Gifted Child Association (NWGCA) Workshop, (Washougal/Vancouver, WA),
Keynote speaker, What Parents & Educators Need to Know About Highly Capable Kids
October 2016: Washington Association of Educators of the Talented and Gifted (WAETAG) 2016
Conference, Breakout presenter (Tacoma, WA)
October 2016: Oregon Association for Talented and Gifted (OATAG) 2016 Conference,

Breakout presenter (Portland, OR), What Parents & Educators Need to Know About Highly Capable Kids
 October 2015, WAETAG 2015 Conference, Breakout presenter (Tacoma, WA)
 Why Grit Matters, Where Underachievement Comes From, and What You Can Do About It
 November 2014, NWGCA Regional Workshop, Keynote speaker (Woodinville, WA)
 What Parents & Educators Need to Know About Highly Capable Kids
 October 2014, WAETAG 2014 Conference, Breakout presenter (Tacoma, WA)
 What Educators Need to Know About Highly Capable Kids
 March 2014, NWGCA Connections Conference 2014, Breakout presenter (Seattle, WA)
 What Parents & Educators Need to Know About Highly Capable Kids
 November 2013, NWGCA Regional Workshop, Keynote speaker (Woodinville, WA)
 What Parents & Educators Need to Know About Highly Capable Kids
 October 2013, WAETAG 2013 Conference, Breakout Presenter (Tacoma, WA)
 Developing Grit and Persistence
 February 2013, NWGCA Connections Conference 2013, Breakout presenter (Puyallup, WA)
 What Parents & Educators Need to Know About Highly Capable Kids

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AUDIENCES

Jan 2023: Lake Washington GEAC (online)	March 2018: Snohomish Public Library
Oct 2022: Equity in HiCap Week (online)	January 2018: Camas School District
Sept 2022: Inst. for Ed. Advancement (online)	November 2017: Lake Washington School District
Sept 2022: Seattle Homeschoolers (online)	November 2017: BK Play Academy (Bellevue)
May 2022: Sumner-Bonney Lake SD	November 2017: Northshore School District
May 2022: Arc of King County (online)	October 2017: Shoreline School District
February 2022: Bellingham SD (online)	October 2017: Leavenworth School District
February 2022: Kent SD (online)	September 2017: Mount Vernon School District
May 2021: Feynman School, MD (online)	May 2017: Federal Way School District
January 2021: MIT Club of Wash DC (online)	March 2017: Seabury School in Tacoma
January 2021: Edmonds CP Assoc. (online)	February 2017: Highline School District
December 2020: MIT '98 Reunion (online)	January 2017: Edmonds School District
November 2020: Bellingham Schools (online)	November 2016: Renton School District
October 2020: Blaine School District (online)	October 2016: Northshore School District
January 2020: Central Kitsap School District	October 2016: Mount Vernon School District
November 2019: MIT Splash Parent Program	October 2016: Kelso School District
November 2019: Seabury School, Tacoma	October 2016: Bear Creek Elementary PTA
October 2019: Edmonds Challenge Parents Assoc.	October 2016: Lake Washington School District
May 2019: Sumner School District	October 2016: Shoreline School District
March 2019: Shoreline School District	June 2016: Highline School District
January 2019: Edmonds School District	May 2016: Lynden School District
December 2018: Seattle Schools, Thornton Elem	April 2016: Centered in Wellness, Kirkland
October 2018: Riverview School District	April 2016: Mukilteo School District
October 2018: Marysville School District	March 2016: Issaquah School District
April 2018: International School, Kirkland	January 2016: Lake Stevens School District
April 2018: Seabury School, Tacoma	January 2016: Mount Vernon School District

PUBLICATIONS

- De Bonte, A., McCaffrey, C., Wisdom, H., Locke, M., Torgerson, N., & Lucero, T. (2023). Auditory processing disorders and vision processing disorders in 2e: Are these foundational factors being overlooked?. *Journal for the Education of the Gifted, 2e Special Edition* (in press).
- De Bonte, A. (2022). Case seminar: A model for improving complex 2e diagnosis. Bridges Graduate School Internship.
- De Bonte, A. (2021). Equity is on all of our minds - including at NAGC this year. <https://www.smartisnoteasy.com/blogs/post/equity-is-on-all-of-our-minds-including-at-nagc-this-year>
- Contributed to: Open letter to California Department of Education. (2021). <https://docs.google.com/document/d/19pOJZf8CrRe084tSBMyGpzY4WynsLXSwEtKzZMxnWNA/mobilebasic?mibextid=Zxz2cZ&usp=gmail>
- De Bonte, A. (2021). 12 things I wish I had known about my young gifted kids. <https://www.smartisnoteasy.com/blogs/post/12-Things>
- De Bonte, A. (2020). Accelerated learning and enhanced instruction. <http://tinyurl.com/acceleratedinstruction>
- De Bonte, A. (2019). Beyond the neuropsychological evaluation. *NAGC Parenting for High Potential Magazine*.
- WA Educators of Talented and Gifted (WAETAG) & NW Gifted Child Association (NWGCA). (2019). What do Seattle and NYC have in common?, <http://tinyurl.com/seattlenyc>
- De Bonte, A., Mall, K., & Kane, M. (2017). NAGC parent TIP sheet: Making friends. https://nagc.org/page/family_tip_sheets
- De Bonte, A. (2017). Peeling the onion: Equity in HiCap. <http://tinyurl.com/PeelingTheOnion>
- De Bonte, A. (2017). Peeling the onion: Equity in HiCap – abridged for educators. <http://tinyurl.com/PeelingTheOnionA>
- NW Gifted Child Association (NWGCA). (2015). James and Susie: An allegory about smart kids and grit. <http://tinyurl.com/nwgcaJamesAndSusie>

INTERVIEWED IN

- Bridges 2e Media. (2020, Fall). 22 people to watch. *Variations 2e Magazine*.
- Smolowitz, M. (Director). (2020). Highly Capable [Video]. <https://vimeo.com/414816589>

AWARDS

2e People to Watch, Fall 2020 (Variations 2e Magazine)

PTA Outstanding Advocate Award, June 2018 (Northshore Council PTA)

PTA Outstanding Advocate Award, June 2017 (Leota Middle School PTA)

PTA Outstanding Advocate Award, June 2015 (Bear Creek Elementary PTA)

BIO

Austina De Bonte is a consultant, speaker, and advocate for gifted and twice exceptional students with Smart is not Easy, LLC (smartisnoteasy.com). She is also President of the WA Coalition for Gifted Education (wacoalition.com), Past President of NW Gifted Child Association (nwgca.org), President of the Northshore HiCap Parents Council (hcparents.org), Member of the WA State Gifted Advisory Board, and Advisor to The G Word documentary (thegwordfilm.com). A dynamic and engaging presenter, Austina speaks regularly at regional and national conferences, as well as conducts professional development workshops for educators, and provides consulting for individual families. She works with school district teams to develop and fine-tune their program models, especially concerning equitable identification strategies. Her signature style combines her experience as a student, parent, and family consultant along with synthesized research, current district practices, and cutting edge neuroscience. She has particular passion for supporting gifted and twice exceptional students in public schools and helping families get to the root causes of their child's challenges, looking beyond the usual suspects. She received the "2e People to Watch" Award from Variations 2e magazine in 2020, and has won three Outstanding Advocate awards from the PTA. She has a Masters degree from MIT and is a doctoral candidate at Bridges Graduate School of Cognitive Diversity in Education.