

Catharine Biddle

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Educational Leadership

The Pennsylvania State University

University Park, PA

M.Ed. in Out of School Time Education and Leadership

Lesley University

Cambridge, MA

B.A. in South Asian Studies; History

Brown University

Providence, RI

EMPLOYMENT

Professor, 2026 – present

University of Maine

Orono, ME

- Libra Professor of Educational Leadership, 2026 – present
- Area Coordinator for COEHD Research and Outreach, 2025 - present
- Director, Center for Applied Research on Education and Schools, 2024 - present
- School Director (Dept Chair), 2023 – 2025

Associate Professor, 2020 – 2025

University of Maine

Orono, ME

Assistant Professor, 2015 - 2020

University of Maine

Orono, ME

Research and Teaching Assistant, 2010 – 2015

The Pennsylvania State University

University Park, PA

Executive Director, 2009 - 2010

Nanubhai Education Foundation

Gujarat, India

English Language Teacher, 2008 - 2009

Nanubhai Education Foundation

Gujarat, India

Teaching Fellow, 2006 - 2008

Citizen Schools

Boston, MA

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS

- Presidential Public Engagement Achievement Award, University of Maine, 2023
Presented to a faculty member by UMaine's President for exceptional public engagement

- Dean's Service and Engagement Award, University of Maine, 2023
Presented to a faculty member by the COEHD for distinguished service to the University and Maine
- Faculty Mentor Impact Award, University of Maine, 2023
Presented to a faculty member in each of UMaine's five colleges for outstanding student mentoring
- Howard A. Dawson Best Research Paper Award, National Rural Education Association, 2019, 2021 and 2022
Presented to the author(s) of the best research paper submitted to the NREA Annual Meeting
- Distinguished Service Award, National Rural Education Association, 2022
Presented for the preparation of the National Rural Education Research Agenda 2022-2027
- Faculty Mentoring Award, University of Maine, 2018
Presented to a faculty member in each of UMaine's five colleges for outstanding student mentoring
- Mark R. Shibles Award, University of Maine, 2017
Granted to untenured faculty who have distinguished themselves through research, teaching and service
- Invited Author Award, Eastern Evaluation and Research Society, 2015
Recognizes exceptional scholarship by an early career scholar in the field of program evaluation
- College of Education Graduate Student Recognition Award, The Pennsylvania State University, 2014
Recognizes an advanced graduate student's outstanding contributions to research and teaching
- David L. Clark Seminar Scholar, University Council on Educational Administration, 2011
- Critical Language Scholarship (Hindi), U.S. State Department, 2011
- University Graduate Fellowship, The Pennsylvania State University, 2010-2011

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed books, edited volumes, and special issues

1. Biddle, C., Brenner, D. & McHenry-Sorber, E. (Eds) (2023). Rural education research: Status and imperatives. *Peabody Journal of Education*, 98(4). Special issue.
2. Brown, L.M., Biddle, C. & Tappan, M. (2022). *Trauma-responsive schooling: Centering student voice and healing*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Education Press.
3. Azano, A., Eppley, K., and Biddle, C. (Eds) (2021). *Bloomsbury Handbook of Rural Education in the United States*. New York, NY: Bloomsbury.

Refereed journal articles (indicates graduate or undergraduate student co-author)*

4. McHenry-Sorber, E., Roberts, J. K., Hartman, S. L., Schmitt-Wilson, S., Biddle, C., & Buffington, P. (2026). Making space for interrogation of place: An argument for spatial equity in education research. *Education Sciences*, 16(6), 974. <https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci16060974>
5. Biddle, C. & Kimball, E. (2025). Education as a rural, public good. *Maine Policy Review*, 34(2), 264-266.
6. Biddle, C. (2025). Rural school redesign: Enacting care and mutuality through responsive professional development. *The Rural Educator*, 46(4).
7. *Davis, Z., Crandall, M., Leahy, J., Bell, K., & Biddle, C. (2025). Not all trails are straight: Residential aspirations of rural, queer college students. *Journal of Rural Studies*. Online first. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0743016725001135>

8. Biddle, C. & Brezicha, K. (2025). Personalized learning policy and student voice: A statewide case study. *Educational Policy*, 39(6), <https://doi.org/10.1177/08959048241305532>
9. Frankland, M. & Biddle, C. (2023). "I don't think they know what I do": The role of the school counselor during 2020 COVID-related building closure. *Theory and Practice in Rural Education*, 13(2), 1–28. <https://doi.org/10.3776/tpre.2023.v13n2p1-28>
10. McHenry-Sorber, E., Biddle, C., Buffington, P., Hartman, S., Roberts, J.K., and Schmitt-Wilson, S. (2023). The 2022-2027 National Rural Education Research Agenda: A Closer Look. *Peabody Journal of Education*, 98(4), 448-465 (equal co-author contributions)
11. *Brown, S.P. & Biddle, C. (2023). Testing a teacher "costs to caring" resilience model to identify burnout mediators. *Teaching and Teacher Education*, 123(2), 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tate.2023.104078>
12. Biddle, C. (2022). "We'll probably all be in trouble for hugging a kid": Rural teacher radicalism in addressing adverse childhood experiences. *The Rural Educator*, 43(3), 43-57. (blind review coordinated by editorial advisory board)
13. *Bernsen, N., Crandall, M., Leahy, J., & Biddle, C. (2022). Community influences on youth educational aspirations in rural, resource-dependent places. *Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*, 8(3), 189-207.
14. Biddle, C. & Brown, L. (2020). Banishing "Siberia" and student seclusion: Supporting trauma-informed systems change in a rural school. *Journal of Cases in Educational Leadership*, 23(2), 85-97.
15. Biddle, C., Sutherland, D.H. & McHenry-Sorber, E. (2019). On resisting "awayness" and being a good insider: Early career scholars revisit Coladarci's Swan Song a decade later. *Journal of Research in Rural Education*, 35(7), 1-9.
16. Biddle, C. & Hufnagel, E. (2019). Navigating the "danger zone": Tone policing and the boundaries of civility in student voice. *American Journal of Education*, 125(4), 487-520.
17. Biddle, C. (2019). Pragmatism in student voice practice: What does it take to sustain a counter-normative practice in the long-term? *Journal of Educational Change*, 20(1), 1-29.
18. Azano, A. & Biddle, C. (2019). Disrupting dichotomous traps and problem formation in rural education. *The Rural Educator*, 40(2), 1-13.
19. Mette, I. M., Biddle, C., *Congdon, M., & *Mercado, A. (2019). Parochialism or pragmatic resistance? The role of community-engaged leadership, activist scholarship, and vulnerable rural ecologies within school reform. *Australian and International Journal of Rural Education*, 29(2), 78-98.
20. Biddle, C. & Mette, I. (2019). Using affinity networks to scaffold community collaboration: Methodological techniques to support the use of qualitative data in community-based research. *The Qualitative Report*, 24(2), 1186-1197.
21. Biddle, C., Mette, I., & *Mercado, A. (2018). Partnering with schools for community development: Power imbalances in a rural community collaborative addressing childhood adversity. *Community Development*, 49(2), 191-210.
22. Ackerman, R., Mette, I., & Biddle, C. (2018). The adaptive challenges of leadership in Maine schools. *Maine Policy Review*, 27(1), 36-43.

23. Mette, I., Biddle, C., Brown, L., Tappan, M., Cirone, A., Ray, B., Strickland, S., & Thomas, L., (2018). The TREE branches of community support: How school-community partnerships can drive rural reform efforts. *Journal of Maine Education*, 34(1), 55-67.
24. Biddle, C. (2017). Trust formation when youth and adults partner for school reform: A case study of supportive structures and challenges. *Journal of Organizational and Educational Leadership*, 2(2), 1-29.
25. Biddle, C. & Azano, A. (2016). Constructing the “rural school problem”: Rurality and rural education research over the past century. *Review of Research in Education*, 40(1), 298-325.
26. Mette, I., Biddle, C., Mackenzie, S.V. & *Harris-Smedberg, K. (2016). Poverty, privilege and political dynamics of rural school reform: Unraveling leadership in invisible America. *Journal of Cases in Educational Leadership*, 19(3), 62-84.
27. Biddle, C. & Schafft, K.A. (2015). Axiology and anomaly: Pragmatism, valuation and the “transformative paradigm.” *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, 9(4), 320-334.
28. Biddle, C. & Mitra, D. (2015). Implementing middle school youth-adult partnerships: A study of two programs focused on social change. *Middle Grades Review*, 1(2), 1-18.
29. Schafft, K. & Biddle, C. (2015). Opportunity, ambivalence and the purpose of schooling in Pennsylvania’s Marcellus Shale region. *Human Organization*, 74(1), 74-85.
30. Schafft, K. & Biddle, C. (2014). The school and community impacts of hydraulic fracturing within Pennsylvania’s Marcellus Shale region and dilemmas for educational leadership. *Peabody Journal of Education*, 89(5), 670-682.
31. Schafft, K.A. & Biddle, C. (2013). Place and purpose in public education: School mission statements and educational (dis)embeddedness. *American Journal of Education*, 120(5), 55-76.

Refereed book chapters

32. Biddle, C. & Zuckerman, S. (forthcoming). Asset-based approaches to preparing school leaders for rural contexts: Ruralizing the National Educational Leadership Preparation Standards. In P. Grant, J.K. Roberts, and J. Flowers (Eds), *Asset-based approaches to theory and practice in rural education: Leveraging local strengths in a globalized world*. Routledge.
33. Azano, A., Flowers, J., Coady, M. & Biddle, C. (2025). Trends influencing the future of rural education research in the United States. In J. Johnson & H. Hobart (Eds), *International Handbook on Rural and Remote Education*. Routledge.
34. Biddle, C., & Frankland, M. (2024). Leading “survival learning”: Rural school leaders during COVID-19. In S. White, J. Downey, & M. Fuqua (Eds) *Leading rurally: Lessons on leadership in rural education*. Routledge.
35. Biddle, C. (2021). “Rural educational leadership.” In A. Azano, K. Eppley, and C. Biddle (Eds). *Bloomsbury Handbook of Rural Education in the USA*. New York: Bloomsbury.
36. Biddle, C. & Brown, L.M. (2021). “Trauma-informed education in rural schools.” In A. Azano, K. Eppley, and C. Biddle (Eds). *Bloomsbury Handbook of Rural Education in the USA*. New York: Bloomsbury.

37. Biddle, C. & Mitra, D. (2020). "Community advocacy and activism." In A. Urick, D. DeMatthew & T. Ford, *Maximizing the Policy-Relevance of Research for School Improvement*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.
38. *Frankland, M., *Mercado, A., & Biddle, C. (2019). "Negotiating culturally responsive leadership in remote, rural settings." In E. Crawford & L. Dorner (Eds), *Educating Immigrant Children*. NY: Routledge.
39. Biddle, C., Mette, I., Brown, L. Tappan, M., Ray, B. & Strickland, S. (2018). "Addressing rural, wicked problems through collaboration: Critical reflections on a school-university-community design process." In R.M. Reardon & J. Leonard (Eds), *Making a positive impact in rural places: Change agency in school-university-community collaboration in education*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.
40. Biddle, C., & Mette, I. (2017). "Education and information." In J. Sherman, A. Tickamyer, & J. Warlick (Eds), *Rural poverty in the United States*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.
41. Biddle, C. & Schafft, K.A. (2016) "Educational and ethical dilemmas for STEM education in Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale Gasfield Communities". In R. Duschl & A. Bismack (Eds), *Reconceptualizing STEM education: The central role of practices*. New York, NY: Routledge.
42. Braser, K., Davis, L., Glenna, L., Kelsey, T., McLaughlin, D., Schafft, K.A., Babbie, K., Biddle, C., Delessio-Parson, A., Rhubarb, D., Suchyta, M. (2015). "Communities under the boom of shale gas development". In W. Hefly & Y. Wang (Eds), *Economics of unconventional shale gas development: Cases and impacts*. New York, NY: Springer Publishing.
43. Schafft, K.A. & Biddle, C. (2014). "Education and schooling in rural America". In C. Bailey, L. Jensen & E. Ransom (Eds), *Rural America in a globalizing world: Problems and prospects for the 2010s*. Morgantown, WV: West Virginia University Press.

Public scholarship (non-refereed)

44. Hartman, S., Roberts, J.K, Wilson, S., McHenry-Sorber, E., Buffington, P. and Biddle, C. (2023). The 2022-2027 National Rural Education Research Agenda: A Closer Look. *The Rural Educator*. (equal contribution by authors)
45. Brown, L., Biddle, C. & Tappan, M. (2022). Student-led social-emotional learning. *Educational Leadership*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ascd.org/el/articles/student-led-sel>
46. Biddle, C., Brown, L.M. & Tappan, M. (2022). Letting student voice lead the way. *Educational Leadership*, 79(9). Retrieved from: <https://www.ascd.org/el/articles/letting-student-voice-lead-the-way>
47. Biddle, C., Tappan, M., Brown, L.M. (2022). Schools should make students' wishes come true. Here's how. *Education Week*. Retrieved from: <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/opinion-schools-should-make-students-wishes-come-true-heres-how/2022/04>
48. Tappan, M., Brown, L.M. & Biddle, C. (2022). Rural Maine families need mental health support. *Portland Press Herald*. Retrieved from: <https://www.pressherald.com/?p=6450179>
49. Tinkham, K. & Biddle, C. (2022). Across Maine, we can do better to connect with our youth. *Portland Press Herald*. Retrieved from: <https://www.pressherald.com/2022/03/31/maine-voices-across-maine-we-can-do-better-to-connect-with-our-youth/>

50. Biddle, C., Brenner, D., McHenry-Sorber, E. & Azano, A. (2022). Introduction to the special issue on race and rurality. *The Rural Educator*, 43(1), 1-3.
51. Brenner, D., Biddle, C., & McHenry-Sorber, E. (2020). Rural education and election candidates: Three questions. *The Rural Educator*, 41(2), 73-74.
52. Biddle, C. (2017). Four ways we can all support students in poverty. *Bangor Daily News*. Retrieved from: <https://bangordailynews.com/2017/12/02/mainefocus/4-ways-we-can-all-support-students-in-poverty/>
53. Biddle, C. & Hall, D. (2017). How education is failing rural America. *Education Week*, 36(18), 22-23. Retrieved from: <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2017/01/18/how-education-is-failing-rural-america.html>
54. Biddle, C. & Mette, I. (2017). Addressing adverse childhood experiences through community-engaged leadership. *Maine Schools in Focus*. Retrieved from: <https://umaine.edu/edhd/2017/06/05/maine-schools-focus-addressing-adverse-childhood-experiences-community-engaged-school-leadership/>
55. Biddle, C. & Schafft, K.A. (2014). The sameness of district mission statements. *The School Administrator*, 9(71), 14-15.

White Papers, Evaluation or Policy Reports

56. Biddle, C. & Frankland, M. (2021). *Lessons for Leaders from the 2020-2021 School Year*. Prepared by the Beyond Crisis Schooling Project. <https://umaine.edu/beyond-crisis-schooling/>
57. Fairman, J., Biddle, C. & *Chien, M. (2021). *Community-school partnerships in Maine*. Prepared on behalf of the Maine Education Policy Research Institute for the Education and Cultural Affairs committee.
58. Biddle, C. Frankland, M., *Crane, R., *Sulinski, B. & *O'Neil, W. (2020). *Moving beyond crisis schooling: What can we learn from the innovation of Maine schools districts to support remote learning from March – June 2020?* Prepared by the Beyond Crisis Schooling Project. <https://umaine.edu/beyond-crisis-schooling/>
59. Biddle, C., Crandall, M., Bell, K., *Gayton, D., *Thadal, I., & *VanDerAa, O. (2019). *Landscapes of opportunity: What we know about preparing rural youth for the new forest economy*. Prepared on behalf of the Landscapes of Opportunity project.
60. Biddle, C. & *Dagistan-Terzi, S. (2017). *Communicating School Redesign Initiative Year 4 Evaluation*. Prepared for Shaping Our Future Together and the McClure Foundation.
61. Biddle, C. & *Dagistan-Terzi, S. (2016). *Communicating School Redesign Initiative Year 3 Evaluation*. Prepared for the Vermont Agency of Education and Shaping Our Future Together.
62. Mette, I., Biddle, C. & Fairman, J. (2016). *Successful strategies and challenges for extended learning time: Case studies of six Maine programs*. Prepared for the Maine State Legislature on behalf of the Maine Educational Policy Research Institute.
63. Biddle, C., & Mette, I. (2016). *Successful strategies for extended learning opportunities: Academic benefits and beyond*. Prepared for the Maine State Legislature on behalf of the Maine Educational Policy Research Institute.

64. Biddle, C. (2015). *Communicating School Redesign Initiative Year 2 Evaluation*. Prepared for the Vermont Agency of Education and Shaping Our Future Together.
65. Biddle, C. (2015). *Collaborative Peer Review Initiative Year 1 Evaluation*. Prepared for Unleashing the Power of Partnership for Learning.
66. Biddle, C. (2015). *Mental models of education, teaching and learning in Vermont's communities: Summary of the findings of the Communicating School Redesign Initiative's Community Survey*. Prepared for Vermont Agency of Education and Unleashing the Power of Partnership for Learning.
67. Biddle, C. & Mitra, D. (2014). *Evaluation of the Getting to 'Y' Program: Year VI*. Prepared for Unleashing the Power of Partnership for Learning.
68. Biddle, C. & Mitra, D. (2014). *Evaluation of the Great Expectations Middle School Pilot Program*. Prepared for Unleashing the Power of Partnership for Learning.
69. Biddle, C., Feinberg, J. & Beattie, H. (2014). *Youth mental models of education, teaching and learning*. Prepared for Unleashing the Power of Partnership for Learning.
70. Schafft, K.A., & Biddle, C. (2013). *Youth perspectives on Marcellus Shale development: Community change and future prospects*. Prepared for the Center for Rural Pennsylvania.
71. Schafft, K.A., Kotok, S. & Biddle, C. (2013). *Pennsylvania Marcellus Shale gas development: What have the impacts been for schools and education?* Prepared for the Center for Rural Pennsylvania.
72. Hardy, K., Kelsey, T., Glenna, L. & Biddle, C. (2013). *Local economic impacts related to the Marcellus Shale Development*. Prepared for the Center for Rural Pennsylvania.
73. Mitra, D. & Biddle, C. (2012). *Evaluation of Youth and Adults Transforming Schools Together (YATST): Year IV*. Prepared for Unleashing the Power of Partnership for Learning (formerly Youth and Adults Transforming Schools Together).

Book reviews

74. Azano, A. & Biddle, C. (2019). "Rural Turnaround Leadership Development: The Power of Partnerships" *Teachers College Record* [Online first].
75. Biddle, C. (2012). "The Paradox of Urban Space" *Contemporary Sociology*, 41(4), 542.

INVITED TALKS

National

1. Biddle, C. (2026). Engaging Rural Districts in Using the Right Measures for Improvement. Virginia Commonwealth University. Invited Keynote.
2. Biddle, C. (2026). Rural educational policy: Past, present and future. Rurality in the Ivies Conference, Dartmouth College. Invited Panelist.

3. Biddle, C. (2025). The heart, the drain, the catapult and the catalyst: The four stories we tell about rural schools and communities. Rural Schools Collaborative Webinar. Invited speaker.
4. Biddle, C. (2025). Hearts, drains, catapults and catalysts: The four stories we tell about rural schools and communities. Center for Rural Education, Kansas State University. Keynote speaker.
5. Biddle, C. (2025). Trauma, hope and resilience in rural schools: A conversation with Beth Macy and Cat Biddle. Center for Rural Education, Virginia Tech. Invited Speaker.
6. Biddle, C. (2025). The role of scholar-practitioners in rural school redesign. West Texas A&M University Summer Immersion Institute. Keynote speaker.
7. Biddle, C. (2024). Developing and supporting leaders for rural school districts. Council for Chief School Officers. Webinar. Invited Panelist.
8. Biddle, C. (2023). Closing the research-practice gap: How do we make research and data relevant, accessible and actionable? National Rural Education Association. Chattanooga, TN. Invited Plenary Panelist.
9. Biddle, C., Buffington, P., Hartman, S., McHenry-Sorber, E., Roberts, J.K., Schmitt-Wilson, S. (2023). Spatial equity and rural innovation. National Rural Education Association. Chattanooga, TN. Invited Presenter.
10. Biddle, C. (2023). Trauma-responsive schooling: Centering student voice in healing. Center for Rural Education, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. Invited Speaker.
11. Biddle, C., Buffington, P., Hartman, S., McHenry-Sorber, E., Roberts, J.K., Schmitt-Wilson, S. (2023). A Closer Look at the National Rural Education Research Agenda. IES-EIR Rural Community of Practice Group. Invited Panelist.
12. Biddle, C. (2023). Dimensions of Rural School-Community Partnerships. IES National Center for Rural Education Research Networks. Harvard University. Cambridge, MA. Invited Speaker.
13. Biddle, C., Buffington, P., Hartman, S., McHenry-Sorber, E., Roberts, J.K., Schmitt-Wilson, S. (2022). A Closer Look at the National Rural Education Research Agenda. Ohio University, Athens, OH. Invited Speakers.
14. Biddle, C. (2022). Letting student voice lead the way: New approaches to healing in rural schools. Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. Invited Speaker.
15. Biddle, C. (2022). "K-12 educational decision-making in the context of COVID-19." American Education Research Association annual meeting, San Francisco, CA. Presidential session: Invited Panelist.
16. Biddle, C. (2021). "Ethical considerations in working with small and rural communities for research." International Symposium for Innovation in Rural Education. Invited Presenter.

17. Biddle, C. (2021). "Constructing and reconstructing the rural school problem: One hundred years of rural education research." American Education Research Association annual meeting, San Francisco, CA. Presidential session: Invited Presenter.
18. Ray, B., Biddle, C., Brown, L.M. & Tappan, M. (2020). "Centering voice and equity in trauma-informed schooling: A rural research-practice partnership." Harvard University Education Redesign Lab Rural Working Group. Invited Presenters.
19. Biddle, C. & Ray, B. (2019). "New approaches to adverse childhood experiences in rural schools." Battelle for Kids National Rural Collaborative Network. Webinar. Invited Presenter.
20. Biddle, C. (2017) "Education in Trump country and the rest of rural America." Education Writers Association Annual Meeting, Washington DC. Invited Panelist.
21. Biddle, C. & Schafft, K.A. (2015). "Axiology and anomaly in the practice of mixed methods research". Eastern Evaluation and Research Society. Galloway, NJ. Invited Conference Speaker.
22. Biddle, C. (2015). "Reforming the rural school: Spotlight on rural education". Yale School of Management Education Leadership Conference. New Haven, CT. Invited Panelist.
23. Schafft, K. & Biddle, C. (2014). "Opportunity, ambivalence and the purpose of schooling in Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale Region." Waterbury Summit on Science Education. University Park, PA. Invited Presenter.

Regional

24. Biddle, C. (2026). School Funding in Maine. Maine Citizens Assembly on Education. Invited Panelist.
25. Biddle, C. (2025). Practical strategies for celebrating rurality in the classroom. Island Readers and Writers Dear Teacher Conference. Invited presenter.
26. Biddle, C. & Kimball, E. (2024). Education as a rural, public good. Mitchell Institute Speaker Series. Invited Speaker.
27. Biddle, C. (2024). School-community partnerships to support locally-relevant learning. Island Readers and Writers Dear Teacher Conference. Invited presenter.
28. Biddle, C. (2024). "Asset-based school leadership and strategic planning." Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance Computer Science Training Institute. Invited Speaker.
29. Biddle, C. (2024). "Becoming a threat to inequity within your sphere of influence." RSU 26 District Professional Development Day. Invited Speaker.
30. Biddle, C. (2023). "Amplifying the power of family engagement through student-led conferences." MELMAC Foundation Peer Learning Session (October). Invited Speaker.

31. Biddle, C. (2023). "Innovations in Rural Education." Island Readers and Writers Dear Teacher Conference. Invited Keynote.
32. Biddle, C., Buffington, P., Hartman, S., McHenry-Sorber, E., Roberts, J.K., Schmitt-Wilson, S. (2022). "A Closer Look at the National Rural Education Research Agenda." Regional Educational Laboratory – Northeast and Islands. Invited Presenters.
33. Biddle, C., Brown, L.M., & Tappan, M. (2022). "Trauma responsive schooling: Student voice and healing." HGSE Gutman Library Author Talk Series. Invited Speaker.
34. Biddle, C., Brown, L.M., & Tappan, M. (2022). "Student-empowered social emotional learning: Putting students at the center of trauma-responsive schooling." Athens Community School, Athens ME. Invited Professional Development.
35. Biddle, C. (2021). "The four stories we tell about rural schools and communities." Maine West. Invited Speaker.
36. Biddle, C. (2021). "Emerging stronger: How we can use our strengths to shape rural education for a post-pandemic future." MELMAC Foundation Peer Learning Session (May). Invited Speaker.
37. Biddle, C. (2021). "Emerging stronger: How we can use our strengths to shape rural education for a post-pandemic future." MELMAC Foundation Peer Learning Session (March). Keynote Speaker.
38. Biddle, C. (2021). "The heart, the drain, the catapult and the catalyst: Leveraging rural schools for community development." Community Learning for ME Reimagining Education Series. Invited Speaker.
39. Biddle, C. (2020). "Courageous leadership in hard times: Becoming a threat to inequity in our rural communities." Island Institute Annual Teachers Conference. Keynote Speaker.
40. Biddle, C. (2020). "Youth mattering in Maine." Maine Resilience Building Network Thought Leaders Panel. Augusta, ME. Invited Panelist.
41. Biddle, C. (2020). "The heart, the drain, the catapult and the catalyst: Leveraging rural schools for community development." Portrait of a Graduate Facilitator Meeting, Danforth, ME. Invited Speaker.
42. Biddle, C. (2019). "Addressing rural poverty in Maine schools: What teachers can do." Woodland High School Professional Development Day, Woodland, ME. Invited Speaker.
43. Biddle, C. (2019). "Addressing issues of rural poverty in Maine Schools." Rural Maine Attendance Summit. Bangor, ME. Invited Panelist.
44. Biddle, C. (2019). "The heart, the drain, the catapult and the catalyst: Leveraging schools for community development." Rockland, ME. The Island Institute ILEAD Speaker Series. Invited Keynote Speaker.
45. Biddle, C. (2018). "The Maine teacher shortage". Maine Calling, Portland, ME. Invited Panelist.

46. Mette, I., Biddle, C. & Fairman, J. (2016). "Successful strategies and challenges for extended learning time: Case studies of six Maine programs." Presented to the Maine State Legislature's Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. Invited Presenter.
47. Biddle, C., & Mette, I. (2016). "Successful strategies for extended learning opportunities: Academic benefits and beyond." Presented to the Maine State Legislature's Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. Invited Presenter.

COMPETITIVE GRANTS (FUNDED)

2026. "Rural Educator Network Community of Practice." PI: Catharine Biddle. Rural Schools Collaborative. \$5,000. (Funded April 2026).
2025. "Project REACH." PI: Kathleen Gillon; Co-PI: Catharine Biddle. *USDA-NIFA New Investigator Seed Grant*, \$300,000. (Funded December 2025).
2025. "Rural THRIVE: The Rural Educator Resilience Project." PI: Catharine Biddle. Nellie Mae Foundation General Operating Support Grant. \$75,000 (Funded November 2025).
2025. "National STEM Teacher Corps Pilot Program: EDU EPSCoR DCL: Rural Advancement of Students in STEM via Excellent Teacher Support: A Statewide Maine Alliance (Rural ASSETS)." PI: Susan McKay; Co-PIs: Catharine Biddle, Giovanna Guidoboni; Jon Doty; Franziska Peterson. National Science Foundation, \$5,000,000 (Funded April 2025).
2025. "Maine SMART Seed Grant." PI: Lydia Horne; Co-PI: Catharine Biddle, Sandra De Urioste-Stone, Korah Soll, Val Peacock, Sara King. \$15,000 (Funded May 2025).
2025. "Rural Educator Network Community of Practice." PI: Catharine Biddle. Rural Schools Collaborative. \$5,000 (Funded May 2025).
2024. "Strengthening Maine's Rural Education Workforce." PI: Ezekiel Kimball; Co-PI: Catharine Biddle. *U.S. Department of Education Congressionally Directed Spending*. \$3,300,000 (Funded March 2024).
2023. "Rural Routes: Rural Reimagining of Opportunities for Undergraduate Teacher Education in STEM." PI: Ezekiel Kimball. Senior Personnel: Catharine Biddle. *National Science Foundation Noyce Scholars Application*. \$100,000. (Funded May 2024).
2023. "Advancing healthy communities and ecologies for rural youth." PI: Karen Eppley; Co-PIs: Catharine Biddle. *The Pennsylvania State University*, \$5000 (Funded September 2023).
2023. "Creating a regional multi-tiered system of support for the Midcoast." PI: Jessica Berry Co-PI: Catharine Biddle, Carolyn Sullivan, Mark Munger. *Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group Supporting Community-Based Alternatives to Justice System Involvement*. \$50,000 (Funded August 2023).
2023. "Rural Teacher Corps at the University of Maine". PI: Catharine Biddle Co-PI: Ezekiel Kimball. *Rural Schools Collaborative CATALYST Grant*, \$25,000 (Funded May 2023).
2021. "Creating a healthy rural eco-system for community vitality." PI: Emily Newell. Co-PIs: Eklou Amendah, Catharine Biddle, Kathleen Gillon. *UMaine Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research Consortium Grant* (Internal), \$30,000 (Funded February 2021).

2020. “Responding to the twin pandemics: Expanding TREE services to address equity, well-being and resilience.” PI: Brittany Ray. Co-PIs: Catharine Biddle, Lyn Mikel Brown, Mark Tappan. *Sewall Foundation Healthy Places Healthy People Twin Pandemics Grant*, \$50,000 (Funded December 2020).

2020. “Leading through crisis: School leader decision-making about basic needs provision for students in the context of social and spatial inequality.” PI: Catharine Biddle. Co-PI: Maria Frankland. *Spencer Foundation COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant*, \$49,718 (Funded June 2020).

2019. “Meeting children where they are: Supporting the expansion of trauma-informed schooling in rural America.” PI: Catharine Biddle. *American Educational Research Association*, \$4,968. (Funded May 2019).

2018. “Planning for uncertainty: The role of school and community institutions in preparing the next generation for a new economy.” PI: Catharine Biddle; Co-PIs: Mindy Crandall, Kathleen Bell. *UMaine Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research Consortium Grant* (Internal), \$25,540 (Funded January 2018).

2016. “Empowering a rural community to address poverty and trauma: Innovative school reform and community engagement.” PI: Ian Mette; Co-PIs: Catharine Biddle, Richard Ackerman, John Maddaus, Lyn Brown, Mark Tappan, Alan Furth. *College of Education and Human Development Research Seed Grant* (Internal), \$39,994. (Funded April 2016)

DOCTORAL ADVISING

Current Doctoral and Masters Student Advising (n=24)

Laura Bean, Chair (Ph.D., Educational Leadership), expected 2029

Nicole Benham, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), expected 2027

Eric Brooks, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), expected 2029

Rebecca Campbell, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), expected 2029

Bree Candland, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), expected 2029

Susan Burns Chong, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), expected 2029

Zoe Crawley, Chair, (Ph.D., Education, Communities and Schools), expected 2030

Nell Dailey, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), expected 2029

Alyson Dame, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), expected 2029

Timothy Diamond, Chair (Ph.D. Education, Schools and Communities), expected 2030

Ashlee Detour, Co-Chair (Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Studies), expected 2027

Rebekah Drysdale, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), expected 2027

Yagmur Gunel, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), expected 2029

Jill Hunter, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), expected 2029

Suzanne Joyal, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), expected 2027

Rob Kissinger, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), expected 2029

Allison Reed, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), expected 2029

Ryder Scott, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), expected 2027

Rhonda Sperrey, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), expected 2029

Sarah Timms, Chair (Ph.D., Education, Communities and Schools), expected, 2030

Katie Truesdale, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), expected 2027

Kelly O'Brian Weaver, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), expected 2027
Madeline West, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), expected 2029
Kerri Wyman, Chair (Ph.D., Educational Leadership), expected 2027

Past Committee Service (n=11 as chair, n=34 as committee member)

Vern Leeman, Chair (M.A., Interdisciplinary Studies), expected 2026
Paul Butler, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2023
Dan Chadbourne, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2022
Ryan Crane, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2022
George Mayfield, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2022
Theresa Gillis, Chair (Ph.D., Educational Leadership), 2022
Susan Thibedeau, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2022
Glen Widmer, Chair (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2022
Pamela Doyen, Chair (Ph.D., Educational Leadership), 2021
Maria Frankland, Chair (Ph.D., Educational Leadership), 2020
Kathy Harris-Smedberg, Chair (Ph.D., Educational Leadership), 2019

Janet Corcoran, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2026
Benjamin Greenlaw, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2026
Nicole Hatch, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2026
Heather Mitchell, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2026
Briana Morrill, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2026
Sue Sydnor, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2026
Steffany Tribou, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2026
Alison Woodard, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2026
Jennifer Chace, Committee Member (Ph.D., Public Policy, USM), 2024
Kim Andersson, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2024
Ashley Bryant, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2024
Anita Hopkins, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2024
Eric Hutchins, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2024
Melissa Lyons-Vitalone, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2024
Heather Manchester, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2024
Bill Tracy, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2024
Britton Wolfe, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2024
Favour Akhidenor, Committee Member (Ph.D., Prevention and Intervention), 2023
David Armistead, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2023
Brian Bannen, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2022
Zach Davis, Committee Member (M.S., Forestry), 2022
Scott Harrison, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2022
Laura Miller, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2022
Mia Morrison, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2022
Katie Thompson, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2022
Josh Tripp, Committee Member (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), 2022
Quinton Donahue, Committee Member (Ph.D., Educational Leadership), 2021

Wendi Malenfant, Committee Member (Ph.D., Educational Leadership), 2021
Sherry Brown, Committee Member (Ph.D., Prevention and Intervention), 2020
Barbara Moody, Committee Member (Ph.D., Educational Leadership), 2019
Nicole Bernsen, Committee Member (Ph.D., Forestry), 2019
Mark Congdon, Committee Member (Ph.D., Communication Studies), 2017
Brenda Gammon, Committee Member (Ph.D., Educational Leadership), 2016
Josh Ottow, Committee Member (Ph.D., Educational Leadership), 2016
Amy Hubbard, Committee Member (Ph.D., Higher Education), 2016

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Service to the College of Education and Human Development

Current service:

- COEHD Leadership Team, 2023-present
- KPE Peer Committee Member, 2025 – present
- SELHEHD Peer Committee Member, 2020 - present
- Area Coordinator, Research and Outreach, 2025 - present
- Hub Contact, New England Rural Education Hub, 2022 – present

Previous service:

- Valedictorian selection committee, 2024-25
- New employee onboarding committee, 2024-25
- KMDCDLC Redesign Committee, 2024-25
- Institutional co-sponsor, Shibles Professorship, 2024-25
- Member, EDL Search Committee, 2023-2024
- Dean Bishop Performance Review Committee, 2023 – 2024
- Growing Our Research Empire (GORE) Committee, 2023 – 2024
- Member, ELHEHD Peer Committee, 2021-2023
- Chair, COEHD Diversity and Difference Committee, 2020 - 2022
- Assessment and Accreditation coordinator, Ed Leadership, 2020 – 2022
- Faculty Mentor for two KPE assistant professors, 2021-2022
- EDL Search Committee Chair, 2022
- EDL Search Committee Member, 2020
- Editorial Board member, Maine Schools in Focus, 2017 – 2021
- Program Coordinator, Ed Leadership UMaine GOLD, 2018 - 2020
- Communications Coordinator, Ed Leadership, 2015 – 2020
- Member, Awards Committee, 2017-18, 2020-21
- Member, Diversity and Difference Committee, 2017 – 2020
- Member, CAEP Standard 1 Committee, 2016-17
- Member, Committee for the Joint Doctoral Program, 2015-16

Service to the University of Maine

Current service

- Institutional Review Board, 2026 - present
- UMaine EPSCOR Project Leadership Team, 2025 - present
- Financial Conflicts of Interest Committee, 2025 - present
- Presidential Awards Committee, 2024 – present
- Scientific Misconduct Committee, 2024 – present

Previous service

- Strategic Re-envisioning Working Group, Research Centers and Institutes, 2024-25
- Scientific Misconduct Committee, 2022 - 2023
- Faculty Senate Representative for the COEHD, Term: 2021- 2023
 - University Environment Committee, 2021 – 2023
- EPSCOR Track 1 Proposal Planning Team, 2022-2023
- Provost Sub-Committee on Partner Accommodation, 2021-2022
- Faculty Senate PCCRC Committee, 2021-2022
- UMaine 2025 President’s Commission on Equity and Excellence, 2021 – 2022
- University Research Council, 2015 – 2019
- Representative for COEHD, Center for Undergraduate Research 2020 – 2021
- Organizer, College of Education and Human Development Distinguished Lecture Series 2016-2017

Service to Maine and Greater New England

Current service

- Board Member, Rural Schools Collaborative, 2026 - present
- Outside facilitator, Medway/Millinocket/East Millinocket District Reorganization, 2025 - present
- Board Member, Maine Youth Thriving, 2025-present
- Board member, Rural Youth Institute, 2020 – present
- Washington County School-Community Partnership Learning Group, 2023- present

Previous service

- RSU26 District Wellbeing Committee
- Design Team Member, Trauma-Responsive Equitable Education 2.0, 2022 – 2024
- Midcoast Community Collaborative Leadership Team, 2023 – 2024
- President of the Board, Maine Resilience Building Network, 2021 - 2022
- Vice President of the Board, Maine Resilience Building Network, 2020 – 2021
- Research-Practice Partnership Team Leader, Trauma-responsive Equitable Education 1.0, 2015 - 2021
- Consultant, Island Institute and Rural Aspirations Project Portrait of a Graduate Project, 2019 – 2020
- Leadership team member, Community Learning for ME, 2020
- Northern New England Rural STEM Research Network, 2018 – 2019
- Steering Committee Member, Maine Forest Collaborative, 2017 – 2020

Editorial Board Service

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Research in Rural Education*, 2017 - present

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Rural Social Sciences*, 2016 – present

Editorial Board Member, *American Journal of Education*, 2024 – present

Editorial Board Member, *Maine Policy Review*, 2026 - present

Co-Editor in Chief, *The Rural Educator*, 2019 – 2024

Editorial Board Member, *The Rural Educator*, 2017 – 2019

Reviewer, *American Educational Research Journal*

Reviewer, *American Journal of Education*

Reviewer, *Australian Educational Research Journal*

Reviewer, *Australian and International Journal of Rural Education*

Reviewer, *Child and Youth Services*

Reviewer, *Journal of Community Development*

Reviewer, *Community Development Journal*

Reviewer, *Educational Administration Quarterly*

Reviewer, *Educational Management, Administration and Leadership*

Reviewer, *Educational Inquiry*

Reviewer, *Equity and Excellence in Education*

Reviewer, *Frontiers in Education*

Reviewer, *International Journal of Student Voice*

Reviewer, *Journal of Cases in Educational Leadership*

Reviewer, *Journal of Educational Change*

Reviewer, *Journal of Literacy Innovation*

Reviewer, *Journal of Rural Studies*

Reviewer, *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*

Reviewer, *Online Journal of Rural Research and Policy*

Reviewer, *Public Health Nutrition*

Reviewer, *Qualitative Sociology*

Reviewer, *Rural Sociology*

Reviewer, *Sociology of Education*

Reviewer, *Teachers College Record*

Professional Service

Current service

National Rural Education Association Higher Education and Research Committee Member, 2020 – present

Past service

Chair, AERA Rural Education Special Interest Group, 2023 – 2026

Advisory Committee, Spencer Foundation Rural Racial Equity Research Agenda, 2021 – 2023

Secretary/Treasurer, AERA Rural Education Special Interest Group, 2019-2021

Program Co-chair, AERA Rural Education Special Interest Group, 2016-2019

Committee Chair, AERA Rural Education Special Interest Group Dissertation Award, 2017-19
Committee Member, AERA Rural Education Special Interest Group Career Achievement Award, 2017-18
Social Media and Communications Coordinator, AERA Rural Education Special Interest Group, 2014-2016

Rural Education International Research Alliance, 2018 – 2021

UCEA Working Group on the Comprehensive National Review of ESSA State Plans, 2017-18

UCEA Working Group on Rural Education, 2018 – 19

Associate Scholar, Rural School-Community Partnership Consortium (based out of the William & Mary School of Education), 2017 – 2019

National Mentoring

Rural Education Special Interest Group Mentoring Pilot Program, Founder, 2025-present

William Boyd Politics of Education Association Faculty Mentor, 2017 – 2022

AERA Division A Representative to the David L. Clark Seminar Organizing Committee, 2019 – 2020

Grant Reviewer

USDOE Early-Phase Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Grant Program, Reviewer, 2017 (*rural specialist*)

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Grant Program Reviewer, 2018 (*rural specialist*)

National Science Foundation Panel Reviewer, 2020

Conference Reviewer

American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, 2012-present

Division A: Administration, organization and leadership

Division G: Social context of education

Grassroots, youth and community organizing SIG

Rural Education SIG

New England Educational Research Organization Annual Meeting, 2015 – present

University Council on Educational Administration Annual Meeting, 2011-present

Professional Memberships

American Education Research Association

National Rural Education Association

MEDIA COVERAGE AND ENGAGEMENT

Gross, J. (2025). How rural kids got left behind. *New York Times*. Retrieved from:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/19/opinion/rural-education-jobs.html>

Mehta, J. (2025). Trump threatened school funding in Maine. Here's how that money is used. *National Public Radio*. Retrieved from: <https://www.npr.org/2025/05/19/nx-s1-5398545/trump-schools-maine-education-funding>

Harsa, C. (2024). UMaine gets \$100,000 grant to help train quality STEM educators for rural districts. *News Center Maine*. Retrieved from: <https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/news/education/umaine-receives->

[100000-grant-help-train-stem-educators-rural-districts-schools-education-maine/97-e9408cfc-95ad-4ac0-bdda-9958c7629b57](https://www.100000-grant-help-train-stem-educators-rural-districts-schools-education-maine/97-e9408cfc-95ad-4ac0-bdda-9958c7629b57)

Walker, T. (2023). 'My empathy felt drained': Educators struggle with compassion fatigue. *NEAToday*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nea.org/nea-today/all-news-articles/compassion-fatigue-teachers>

Terhune, J. (2022). Tradition or relic? Snow days face an uncertain future. *Portland Press Herald*. Retrieved from: <https://www.pressherald.com/2022/01/31/tradition-or-relic-school-snow-days-face-an-uncertain-future/>

Lisnet, R. (2020). *The Maine Question*. Season 3, Episode 1. Retrieved from: <https://umaine.edu/podcasts/>

Lundy, R. (2020). As students resume classes, school officials prepare for potential pandemic-induced educational divide. *The Maine Monitor*. Retrieved from: <https://www.themainemonitor.org/as-students-resume-classes-school-officials-prepare-for-potential-pandemic-induced-educational-divide/>

Zamore, A. (2020). UMaine study highlights need for mental health resources during remote learning. *WABI-TV5*. Retrieved from: <https://www.wabi.tv/2020/08/05/umaine-study-highlights-mental-health-needs-during-remote-learning/>

Kelley, C. (2019). UMaine researchers explore the role of tone-policing, calls for civility in student voice. *Lewiston Sun-Journal*. Retrieved from: <https://www.sunjournal.com/2019/08/09/umaine-researchers-explore-the-role-of-tone-policing-calls-for-civility-in-student-voice/>

Feinberg, R. (2018). Medway Historical Society Project Connects Students to Older Residents. *Maine Public Radio*. Retrieved from: <http://mainepublic.org/post/medway-historical-society-project-connects-students-older-residents>

Barmore, P. (2017). Can putting the least experienced teachers in the highest risk schools ever result in success? *The Hechinger Report*. Retrieved from: <http://hechingerreport.org/can-putting-least-experienced-teachers-highest-risk-schools-ever-result-success/>

Blint-Welsh, T. (2017). The surprising Maine County that sends so many kids to college. *Bangor Daily News*. Retrieved from: <http://bangordailynews.com/2017/11/27/mainefocus/the-surprising-maine-county-that-sends-so-many-kids-to-college/>

Feinberg, R. (2017). As tax bases erode, rural schools struggle to meet student basic needs. *Maine Public Radio*. Retrieved from: <http://mainepublic.org/post/tax-bases-erode-rural-schools-struggle-meet-students-basic-needs#stream/0>

Smith, J. (2017). The state of education: Disparities and solutions found across the national landscape. *The Brattleboro Reformer*. Retrieved from: <http://www.reformer.com/stories/the-state-of-education-disparities-and-solutions-found-across-the-national-landscape,509532>

Nicosia, M. (2017). Solving the rural education gap: Experts weigh in on new report's findings tying gap to prosperity. *The 74 Million*. Retrieved from: <https://www.the74million.org/article/solving-the-rural-education-gap-experts-weigh-in-on-new-reports-findings-tying-gap-to-prosperity/>

Gewertz, C. (2016). Vermont high school takes student voice to heart. *Education Week*. Retrieved from: <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2016/06/02/vt-high-school-takes-student-voice-to.html>