

# Devon M. Skerritt, Ed.D.

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Skills: design research & analysis | human-centered design | equity-centered & liberatory design | partnerships & engagement | strategic facilitation for innovation | cross-functional collaboration systems thinking | higher education management and policy

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Southern New Hampshire University; Manchester, NH (July 2019-August 2023)

*Director, Design Thinking Research; Innovation Center/Research & Insights*

- Developed and executed qualitative, design research, and market research and analysis culminating in reports for executive level strategic decision-making on innovation, emerging technologies, and new product/program initiatives that supported institutional enrollment growth by over 12%
- Led strategic projects as subject matter expert in applying design thinking approach, methods, and tools for new solutions in campus transformation, microcredentials, product design/development and reimagining HR recognition
- Facilitated over 40 strategy and innovation workshops and trainings for workforce development, HR, marketing, and external stakeholders using an equity-centered foundation in human-centered design (for discovery, ideation, and rapid prototyping), boundary spanning, and foresight methods
- Successfully completed training and led innovation community of practice sessions in design futures and foresight, equity design, cynefin complexity theory, systems thinking, and UX research
- Taught undergraduate course on inquiry and human-centered design research; guest lectured in entrepreneurship courses about design thinking and innovation, presenter on life design

Southern Methodist University, Lyle School of Engineering; Dallas, TX (August 2016-June 2019)

*Associate Director, Design and Innovation Programs*

- Managed co-curricular programming, marketing and recruitment plans, faculty hiring, and co-advised 25 students Design and Innovation master's program, helping grow enrollment by 50% in three years
- Engaged in design research and synthesis, and supported facilitation of human-centered design workshops for consulting projects with K12 schools, higher education institutions, and corporations
- Partnered in development and implementation of fundraising strategy, event planning, and donor cultivation and stewardship for new SMU Design Council, raising over \$75,000 in first year (2017-18)
- Initiated partnerships and served on steering committee for Dallas-Fort Worth Innovation Study to enhance workforce ecosystem with Accenture, Dallas Regional Chamber, United Way, and SMU

Southern Methodist University, Hegi Family Career Development Center;  
Dallas, TX

(August 2013-August 2016)

*Assistant Director, Employer Relations*

- Coached students in career exploration and application preparation (interviews, resumes, branding) helping achieve 88% success in securing interviews, offers, or placement for internships and jobs
- Established Social Impact Fellows program with 15 students, curated seminars, conducted career counseling and facilitated engagement with social innovation and entrepreneurship community

Uplift Education, Williams Preparatory; Dallas, TX

(July 2011-August 2013)

*Dean of College Preparation*

- Managed three-person staff, coordinated and executed strategic planning and budget for counseling activities, dual credit programming, community college and higher education partnerships, and developed college knowledge curriculum

- Counseled culturally and socioeconomically diverse population of 35-50 juniors and 35 seniors and their families in all aspects of college search, application, and admissions process with 100 percent of students admitted to a four-year postsecondary institution

Harvard Graduate School of Education; Cambridge, MA (Feb 2007-July 2011)  
*Assistant Director of Admissions*  
 College of the Holy Cross; Worcester, MA (July 2005-February 2007)  
*Community Development Coordinator*  
 Colgate University; Hamilton, NY (August 2001-June 2004)  
*Assistant Dean of Admission*

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

### Leadership New Hampshire

- 2021-22 cohort member, designed and led interactive workshops about the future of education, learning technology and 21st century skills (October 2021, October 2022)

### Future of Design in Higher Education

- Responsible for operations and experience design of founding convening (January 2017); participant in weekly community of practice discussions and at annual convenings (2017, 2018, 2020, 2023)

### Clinton Foundation/Clinton Global Initiative (CGI)

- *Workshop Presenter*, CGI-University (June 2020), "Design thinking is...An introduction"
- *Commitment Mentor*, CGI-University, (2017-2019)

### University of Pennsylvania, Center for Social Impact Strategies, *Social Impact House Fellow* (Summer 2015)

- Selected to participate in eight-day residential living laboratory for training leaders to grow the impact of ventures including nonprofits and social enterprise projects.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Change by Design (March 2022), workshop presentation, "How to embrace your creative identity in a COVID era"
- FEI Innovation Summit (September 2021), workshop presentation, "Making space for innovation: design for empowerment and creativity in a COVID era"
- McEldoon, K.; Gagne, F.; Skerritt, D.; et al. (2020). Instructor Feedback Practices in Undergraduate Writing at Scale. International Society of the Learning Sciences Proceedings.
- Southern New Hampshire University (May 2020), Closure end-of-year summit, facilitated presentation, "Re-designing Work/Life at Home"
- University of Texas at Austin; Journal of Creative Design and Technologies (2019), "Making Work More Meaningful"

## LEADERSHIP/VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Exeter, NH Recreational Sports Volunteer (Fall 2020 – Present)  
 Exeter, NH Community for Anti-Racism Group (September 2020 - Present)  
 Colgate University, *Thought Into Action Institute* (September 2017 – March 2018)

## EDUCATION

Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX; Ed.D. in Higher Education  
 University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Education, Philadelphia, PA; M.S.Ed. in Higher Education  
 Colgate University, Hamilton, NY; B.A. in History, *summa cum laude*