

**VITA**  
**Scott D. Wurdinger**

**PERSONAL DATA**

Name: Scott D. Wurdinger  
 Present Position: Professor  
 College of Education  
 Department of Educational Leadership  
 Minnesota State University  
 Address: 115 Armstrong Hall, Mankato, MN 56001  
 Phone: 507-389-2919  
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**EDUCATION**

Undergraduate and Graduate Education:

<u>University Attended</u>	<u>Degree Granted</u>	<u>Award Date</u>
Luther College	B.A. Biology	1984
Minnesota State University	M.S. Experiential Education	1986
University of Wisconsin, Madison	M.A. Educational Policy Studies	1988
Union Institute and University	Ph.D. Experiential Education	1992

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES**

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Position Held</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Minnesota State University	Professor	2003-Present
Department of Educational Leadership	Coordinator, Experiential Education Graduate Program	2002-Present
	Department Chair	2003-2006
	Associate Professor	2001-2003
	Director, Adventure Program	2002-2003
Ferris State University Department of Leisure Studies and Wellness	Department Coordinator	2000-2001
	Associate Professor	1998-2001
	Assistant Professor	1996-1998
	Coordinator, Challenge Course	1998-2001
University of New Hampshire Department of Kinesiology	Assistant Professor Outdoor Education	1992-1996
Edgewood College Department of Education	Instructor	1989-1992
Rogers Memorial Hospital	Recreation Therapist	1986-1989
Upward Bound	Teacher, High School Students	1985-1986
Luther College	Teaching Associate, Physical Education Department	1983-1984
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Biological Technician	1980-1981
Minnesota Outward Bound	Instructor	1979-1980

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Reviewed Articles and Abstracts:**

- Wurdinger, S. & Bezon, J. (submitted 2008) Teaching that promotes student learning: five experiential approaches. *Journal of Teaching and Learning*.
- Hugg, R. & Wurdinger, S. (2007) A practical and progressive pedagogy for project based service learning. *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*. 19 (2). 191-204.
- Wurdinger, S., Haar, J., Hugg, R., & Bezon, J. (2007). A qualitative study using project based learning in a mainstream middle school. *Improving Schools*. 10 (2), 150-161.
- Allison, P.A. & Wurdinger, S.D. (2005). Understanding the power, promise and peril of the experiential learning process. *Teacher Education and Practice*. 18 (4), 386-399.
- Wurdinger, S.D. and Paxton, T. (2003). Using multiple levels of experience to promote autonomy in adventure education students. *Journal of Adventure Education and Outdoor Learning*. 3 (1), 41-48.
- Potter, T. and Wurdinger, S.D. (1998) Controversial issues in adventure education. In the *Proceedings of the Coalition for Education in the Outdoors*. Bradford Woods, IN: Coalition for Education in the Outdoors.
- Wurdinger, S.D. (1996). The theory and pedagogy of experiential education: A critical look at teaching practices. *Journal of Experiential Education*. 19(2), 60-61.
- Wurdinger, S.D. (1996). Using critical analysis to improve teaching effectiveness. In the *AEE Proceedings Manual*. Boulder: AEE.
- Wurdinger, S.D. (1995). A critical interpretation of commonly held assumptions in adventure education. *Journal of Adventure Education and Outdoor Leadership*. 12 (1), 6-10.
- Wurdinger, S.D. (1995). Building a new model in experiential learning theory. In the *AEE Proceedings Manual*. Boulder: AEE.
- Wurdinger, S.D., Smith, T., Lynch, J., Neve, G., Havens, M., and Cryer, J. (1994). Approaches to ethical decision-making. In J. Villanueva (Ed) *AEE Proceedings Manual*. Boulder: AEE.
- Wurdinger, S.D. (1994). Experiential Education, traditional education, and adventure education: How they are alike and how they differ. In J.Villanueva (Ed) *AEE Proceedings Manual*. Boulder: AEE.
- Wurdinger, S.D. (1994). Examining the learning process used in adventure education. *Journal of Adventure Education and Outdoor Leadership*. 11(3), 25-27.
- Gass, M. and Wurdinger, S.D. (1993). Ethical decisions in experience based training and development programs. *Journal of Experiential Education*. 16(2), 41-47.
- Wurdinger, S.D. (1993). Misconceptions about experiential learning. In S. Wurdinger and M. Gass (Eds.) *AEE Proceedings Manual*. Boulder: AEE.
- Wurdinger, S.D. and Gass, M. (Eds.). (1993). *Association for experiential education proceedings manual*. Boulder: AEE.

### **Reviewed Articles and Abstracts: (Cont.)**

- Wurdinger, S.D. (1991). Towards an open process for setting ropes course standards. *Journal of Experiential Education*. 14(1), 54.
- Wurdinger, S.D. (1990) Are we off balance? *Journal of Experiential Education*. 13(1), 44-46
- Wurdinger, S.D. (1990). Examining the philosophy of experiential education. In the *AEE Proceedings Manual*. Boulder: AEE.
- Wurdinger, S.D. (1987). The ethics of teaching virtue. *Journal of Experiential Education*. Spring 31-33.
- Wurdinger, S.D. (1986). What makes for effective education? *Mankato Statement*. Spring, 19-20.

### **Books and Book chapters:**

- Wurdinger, S. & Rappalie, L. (2007). *Adventure Sports: Rock Climbing*. Mankato, MN: Creative Education.
- Wurdinger, S. & Rappalie, L. (2007). *Adventure Sports: Ice climbing*. Mankato, MN: Creative Education.
- Wurdinger, S. & Rappalie, L. (2007). *Adventure Sports: Kayaking*. Mankato, MN: Creative Education.
- Wurdinger, S. & Rappalie, L. (2007). *Adventure Sports: Mountain Biking*. Mankato, MN: Creative Education.
- Wurdinger, S.D. (2005). *Using experiential learning in the classroom: practical ideas for all educators*. Lanham, MD: The Scarecrow Press, Inc.
- Wurdinger, S. D. (2004). Experiential learning: why project based learning works. In D. Thomas, W. Enloe, and R. Newell (Eds.). *The coolest school in America: how small learning communities are changing everything*. Lanham, MD: The Scarecrow Press, Inc.
- Wurdinger, S.D. and Steffen, J. (2003) *Developing challenge course programs for schools*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing.
- Wurdinger, S.D. and Potter, T.G. (1999). *Controversial issues in adventure education*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt.
- Wurdinger, S.D. (1999) Is experiential learning practical in higher education? In S. Wurdinger and T. Potter (Eds.) *Controversial issues in adventure education*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing.
- Wurdinger, S.D. and Priest, S. (1999). Integrating theory and application in experiential learning. In J. Miles and S. Priest (Eds.) *Adventure Programming*. (2nd edition). State College: Venture Press.
- Hunt, J.S. and Wurdinger, S.D. (1999). Ethics and adventure programming. In J. Miles and S. Priest (Eds.) *Adventure Programming*. (2nd edition). State College: Venture Press.
- Wurdinger, S.D. (1997). *Philosophical issues in adventure education*. (3rd ed.) Dubuque, IA: Kendall / Hunt Publishing.
- Wurdinger, S.D. (1995). *Philosophical issues in adventure education*. (2nd ed.) Dubuque, IA: Kendall / Hunt Publishing.

### **Books and Book chapters: (Cont.)**

Wurdinger, S.D. (1994). *Philosophical issues in adventure education*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing.

Wurdinger, S.D. (1989). *A rock climbing guidebook to blue mounds state park*. Madison, WI: Nautilus Printing and Publishing.

### **RESEARCH GRANTS AND OTHER REPORTS (past 6 years)**

The Effectiveness of Project Based Learning at the Minnesota New Country School. Spring 2008 (Research Report)

Submitted: A Qualitative Study on the Success of Charter School Graduates, Institute for Education Sciences, 2007 (Federal Grant)

Education Evolving Evaluation of Dakota Academy Charter School, Burnsville, MN, 2007 (Evaluation Report)

A Qualitative Study on the Success of Graduates at Minnesota New Country School, 2007 (Release Grant)

The Effectiveness of Using Project Based Learning in a Middle School, 2006 (Release Grant)

New Leader's Center Alternative Licensure Program, 2004 (Release Grant)

Using Experiential Learning Book Project, 2004 (Release Grant)

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

Stop Talking and Start Doing: Why We Need to Mainstream Experiential Learning, Keynote speech for the Heartland Association for Experiential Education Conference, Williams Bay, WI, March 2008

Current Trends in Experiential Education Panel, Heartland Association for Experiential Education Conference. Williams Bay, Wisconsin, March 2008

Experiential Learning and Standardized Tests, Minnesota Association for Alternative Programs, St Paul, Minnesota, February, 2008.

Convener: Progressive Educators Conference, Mankato, Minnesota, September 2006

Problem Solving Using Project Based Learning, Dakota Meadows Middle School, Mankato, MN, August, 2006

Power, peril, and promise of experiential learning, International Consortium for Experiential Learning Conference, University of Lancaster, Lancaster, England, July 2006

Experiential learning and educational reform, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, July 2006

Project Based Learning Assessment Techniques, Dakota Meadows, Mankato, MN, January, 2006

## **PRESENTATIONS: (Cont.)**

Integrating Project Based Learning at a Mainstream Middle School, Mankato, MN, August 2005

Exploring experiential learning, Woodlands Outdoor Centre, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, June 2004.

Professional Vendor Membership, Association for Challenge Course Technology, Portland, OR, 2003

The Power of Experiential Learning, Minnesota New Country School Workshop, Henderson, MN, July 2002

Using Multiple Approaches of Experiential Learning to Enhance Facilitation, Association for Challenge Course Technology Conference, Nashville, TN, January, 2002

Professional Vendor Membership Orientation, Association for Challenge Course Technology, Nashville, TN, January, 2002

Proactive Experiential Learning, Association for Challenge Course Technology Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico, January, 2001

Controversial Issues in Adventure Education, Association for Challenge Course Technology Conference, Orlando, Florida, January 2000

Using Critical Analysis to Improve Teaching Effectiveness, Teachers of Experiential and Adventure Methodologies Conference, Chicago, Illinois, Spring 1999

Developing a Challenge Course Program for Colleges and Universities, Association for Challenge Course Technology, San Antonio, Texas, Spring 1999  
Presentations cont:

An Experiential Approach to Building Community With Your Alumni, Council for Support and Advancement of Education Conference, Chicago, Illinois, Fall 1998

Philosophical Issues in Adventure Education (keynote speaker), National Intramural Recreation Sports Association-Michigan Chapter, Big Rapids, Michigan, Fall 1998

Breaking Boundaries Through Experience Based Learning, University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, Chicago, Illinois, Fall 1998

Experiential Techniques for the College Classroom, Association for Experiential Education Heartland Conference, Kalamazoo, Michigan, Spring 1998

Opposing Viewpoints: A Panel Discussion on Distance Learning versus Traditional Education, Ferris State University, Big Rapids, Michigan, Spring 1998

Experiential Team Building, Ferris State University, Management and Development Retreat for Ferris State University Administrators, Big Rapids, Michigan, Summer 1997

The Challenge of Change, Ferris State University, The University College Faculty, Big Rapids, Michigan, Fall 1996

Reinvent Yourself: A Team Building Workshop, Ferris State University Dean's Secretaries, Big Rapids, Michigan, Fall 1996

## **PRESENTATIONS: (Cont.)**

Individual Achievement Through Team Support, Allegiance Health Care, Chicago, Illinois, Fall 1996

Experiential Team Building Activities, United Methodist Deans, Wesley Woods Camp, Dowling, Michigan, Fall 1996

Using Critical Analysis to Improve Teaching Effectiveness, Association for Experiential Education International Conference, Spokane, Washington, Fall 1996

Career Exploration in Outdoor Education: A Panel Discussion, Association for Experiential Education Northeast Regional Conference, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire, Spring 1996

Building a New Model in Experiential Learning Theory, Association for Experiential Education International Conference, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, Fall 1995

Advanced Processing Techniques, Sowhegan High School Faculty, Sowhegan, New Hampshire, Summer 1995

Advanced Processing Skills, Quad Graphics Inc., Peewaukee, Wisconsin, Summer 1995

Bridging the Gap Between Classroom and Experiential Learning, Association for Experiential Education Northeast Regional Conference, Lowell, Massachusetts, Spring 1995

Promoting Teacher Education Within the Association For Experiential Education, Association for Experiential Education Northeast Regional Conference, Lowell, Massachusetts, Spring 1995

Accreditation and Peer Review: A Win-Win for Experiential Programs and Professionals, Association for Experiential Education Northeast Regional Conference, Lowell, Massachusetts, Spring 1995

Approaches to Ethical Decision Making: A Panel Discussion, Association for Experiential Education International Conference, Austin, Texas, Fall 1994

Experiential Education, Traditional Education, and Adventure Education: How They Are Alike and How They Differ, Association for Experiential Education International Conference, Austin, Texas, Fall 1994

Experiential Education, Traditional Education, and Adventure Education: How They Are Alike and How They Differ, Association for Experiential Education Regional Conference, Ossipee, New Hampshire, Spring 1994

Experience Based Training and Development, Dun & Bradstreet Software, Southampton, Bermuda, Spring 1994

Misconceptions About Experiential Learning, Association for Experiential Education International Conference, Smugglers Notch, Vermont, Fall 1993

Ethical Decision Making in Experience Based Training and Development, Association for Experiential Education Regional Conference, Springfield, Massachusetts, Spring 1993

Examining the Philosophy of Experiential Education, Association for Experiential Education International Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Fall 1990

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Courses taught at Minnesota State University (past 6 years)**

Seminar: Philosophy of Experiential Education  
Seminar: Experiential Learning and Educational Reform  
Seminar: Integrating Experiential Learning Across the Curriculum  
Seminar: Applications of Experiential Learning  
Seminar: Publishing and Presenting for Educators  
Seminar: Organizational and Systems Change  
Seminar: Leadership Studies  
Seminar: Research in Educational Leadership  
Portfolio Development  
Experience and Education  
Development of Experiential Education  
Project Demonstration  
Practicum  
Internship

## **NON-TEACHING PROFESSIONAL ASSIGNMENTS**

EdVisions, Inc (Project Based Learning Charter Schools)	2007-Present Board Member
Education Evolving	2007-Present Charter School Evaluation Team
EdVisions New Leaders Center	2002-2005 Board Member
Association For Experiential Education (AEE)	1984-Present, Member  1993-Present, Regular Reviewer, Journal of Experiential Education.  1996-Present, Journal Advisory Committee, Journal of Experiential Education.  Journal of Adventure Education 2002-Present, Review Board and Outdoor Learning
Minnesota State University	2002-Present, Coordinator, Experiential Education Program  2003-2006, Chair, Department of Educational Leadership  2002-2003, Director of Adventure Programs  2002-Present, Professional Education Council  2002, Minnesota Education Committee

Minnesota State University (Cont.)	<p>2002-2003, Technology Committee</p> <p>2002, Co-Chair, Search Committee, Department of Educational Leadership</p> <p>2002, College of Education Mission Statement Committee</p> <p>2001-Present, Web Site Contact, Department of Educational Leadership</p>
Ferris State University	<p>2000-June 2001, Co-Coordinator, Department of Leisure Studies</p> <p>2000, Chair, Recreation Leadership and Management Search Committee</p> <p>1999-2001, Graduate Committee</p> <p>1998-2001, Student Government Leadership Committee</p> <p>1998-2001, Professional Recreation Association Advisor</p> <p>1998-2001, Bridge Building Committee</p> <p>1998-2001, Student Life Committee</p> <p>1997-2001, Experiential Teambuilding for Corporate Populations Committee</p> <p>1999, Major Annual Donors Committee</p> <p>1997-1998, Recreation Leadership and Management Program Review Committee</p> <p>1997-1998, Challenge Course Oversight Committee</p> <p>1996-1998, Research Committee</p> <p>1996, Honors Committee</p>
University of New Hampshire	<p>1995-96, 2002 Task Force for School of Health and Human Services</p> <p>1995-96, Graduate Student Selection Committee</p> <p>1994-96, Chairperson, Awards and Seminar Committee</p> <p>1994-96, Advisory Board, Family Expedition Grant</p> <p>1993-96, Kinesiology Department Awards and Seminar Committee</p> <p>1993-1994, Transformational Teamwork Committee</p>

**AWARDS AND HONORS**

2001, Outstanding Faculty Advisor, Student Leadership Services, Ferris State University, Big Rapids, Michigan

2001- Dean's Recognition Award, College of Education, Ferris State University, Big Rapids, Michigan

1990-Present Exel/Peltonen Nordic Skiing Sponsorship

1993- UNH Outstanding Teacher, Awarded by Student Senate Greek and Academic Affairs Council

**ACADEMIC INTERESTS**

Experiential Learning, Educational Reform, Charter Schools, Alternative Teacher Licensing, Adult Education, Philosophy of Education, Environmental Education, Adventure Education