Phone
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ALEXIS COBO

Ed.D., Research Associate

Educational History

Doctor of Education (2020 - 2023)

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
EdD, Curriculum & Instruction
Concentration: Educational Technology
Specialization: Computer Science Education
Dissertation Title: *Creating Pathways to Inclusion in K-12 Computer Science Education: A Case Study on the Scratch Educator Meetup*

Master of Arts (2005 - 2007)

William Davidson Graduate School for Jewish Education
Jewish Theological Seminary of American, New York, NY
Concentration: Jewish Day School Education

Bachelor of Arts (2000 - 2004)

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Cum Laude
Major: Jewish Studies

Professional Appointments

CS K-12 Standards Revision Advisor, Fall 2024 - Present
Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA)
Responsibilities: Provide technical assistance to inform the overall revision process and direction, as well as offer regular feedback and resolve outstanding questions on CS K-12 standards revisions.

AccessComputing Partner, Summer 2024 - Present
AccessComputing Alliance
Responsibilities:

- Collaborate with partners in monthly online meetings.
- Participate in professional development and networking opportunities.
- Commit to making computing resources more inclusive and accessible for students with disabilities.
- Advocate for disability inclusion in BPC efforts within your department.

Policy Committee Member, Fall 2023- Present
Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA)
Responsibilities:

- Vet, develop, and adopt a set of identity-inclusive and data driven CSTA endorsed policy recommendations.
- Design and support a CS teacher toolkit for CSTA members and Chapter Leaders to advocate effectively for policies set at the local and state level.

Educational Advisor, Spring 2021 - Spring 2022
Work-It Out, WOMBATS!
GBH Kids, PBS Kids, & Pipeline Studios
NSF Grant # DRL-2005975
Responsibilities:

- Review television scripts for universal design and culturally relevant computational thinking content for PreK-1st grade audience throughout character/plot development.

Show Credits:

- "Crab Roll"
- "Show & Smell"

AI Grade band 3rd - 5th Working Group Member, Fall 2019 - Spring 2023
AI4K12, NSF Grant # DRL-1846073
Responsibilities:

- Provided technical assistance for the drafting, editing, and revisions of the grade band 3-5 guidelines of the Five Big Ideas in AI.

Research Focus

As a former K-12 school-based instructional leader, my research focus is to develop a critical understanding of the intersection of equity and inclusion. A growing body of research suggests while more states, districts, and schools adopt computer science (CS) standards and programs, barriers to inclusion persist. My research focuses on ways to ameliorate these barriers through the investigation of high-quality teacher professional development. I also study ways of increasing student and teacher agency and seek to interrogate and understand stakeholder beliefs that are prohibitive to positive student outcomes for the widest range of learners.

Using mixed methods approaches, I identify effective strategies for improving teacher professional development, fostering student agency, and challenging biased beliefs in CS education. My research findings inform the development of more equitable CS policies, curriculum, and professional development programs. The results from various studies led to raising awareness in the importance of equity and inclusion in CS education and inspired action among actors in the field.

Research Experience

Research Associate, CSforALL (June 2023 - Present)

Principal Investigator (PI) on NSF-funded projects leading research, evaluation, and grant writing efforts. Overseeing program effectiveness and securing contributed funding for CS education initiatives at CSforALL. Employing methodological analysis to ensure rigor, evidence of validity and reliability, transparency and accessibility of findings.
Funded Projects:
SCRIPT Crew TN: Impacts of State-Wide SCRIPT on CS Education Pathways in TN
Grant #2122756
BPC-A: A Systemic Change for Broadening Participation In K-12 CS Education Pathways, The CSforALL Alliance
Grant #2216614

Graduate Research Assistant, CTRL (Fall 2020 - Fall 2023)

Member of the Creative Technology Research Lab; an interdisciplinary lab focused on the intersection of equity, access, and inclusion in K-12 computer science and computation thinking.
Funded Position:
Universal Design for Learning In Computer Science: A Research Practice Partnership (UDL4CS) (Fall 2020 - 2023)
PI: Maya Israel, Grant #2031233

- Responsible for curation of website resources and asset development.
- Dissemination of project learnings via website design, social media, and conference presentations
- Provided technical assistance across the RPP partnerships.
- Survey instrument development and descriptive statistical analysis.
- Qualitative case study (Stake, 2005) development, codebook design (Saldana, 2021) and implementation, and publication writing.

Non-Funded Research Contributions:
Include Neurodiversity In Foundational and Applied Computational Thinking (INFACT) (Spring 2021 - 2023)
PI: Maya Israel & TERC, Grant #U411C190179

- Co-design and implementation of intervention for grades 4/5 students using conditional logic with scaffolded instruction.
- Video and pre/post test analysis on Quasi-Experimental Design (Independent t-test; ANOVA).

EAGER: Collaborative Research: Strategies for developing special education preservice teacher competencies In Integrated mathematics+computing
(Spring 2021 - 2023)
PI: Aman Yadav Co-PI: Maya Israel Co-PI: Emily Bouck, Grant #1936440

- Facilitated intervention to preservice special education teachers
- Mixed-method data analysis: general qualitative design on preservice teacher lesson plan; descriptive statistics analysis on pre/post intervention survey

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Professional Affiliations

01 American Educational Research Association (AERA)
2023- Present

02 Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
2022 - Present

03 Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT)
2020 - Present

04 Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)
2020 - Present

05 Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA)
2015 - Present

06 International Society for Technology In Education (ISTE)
2010 - Present

Awards

01 STARS Broadening Participation in Computing (BPC) Research Scholar, 2023-2024

02 Computing Research Association (CRA) Grad Cohort for Women, 2022

03 Mentor Award, 2018
South Florida Robotics First Lego League

04 Growing Our Academic Leaders (GOAL) Cohort, 2017-2018
Pine Crest School, Boca Raton, FL

05 University Scholars Program ($1000)
2003 - 2004
University of Florida, College of Library Arts & Sciences

Professional Teaching Experience

Summary of Experience

My career in K-12 education has encompassed a variety of roles, including administrator, instructional coach, curriculum developer, and content teacher. I have experience in IT infrastructure, faculty supervision, and curriculum development in educational technology, computer science, and innovation. This diverse background equips me with a strong foundation in these areas.

Director of Educational Technology & Integration

Donna Klein Jewish Academy, Boca Raton, FL June 2021 - June 2023

Guest Lecturer, College of Education

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL Fall 2021 / Spring 2021

Senior Curriculum Developer

Code Ninjas, LLC, Remote October 2020 - February 2021

Computer Science & Technology Specialist

Pine Crest Preparatory School, Boca Raton, FL August 2015 - October 2020

Academic Technology Specialist

North Broward Preparatory School, Coconut Creek, FL August 2012- June 2015

Media Center & Kindergarten Teacher

Donna Klein Jewish Academy, Boca Raton, FL August 2010 - June 2012

5th Grade English & History Teacher

Donna Klein Jewish Academy, Boca Raton, FL September 2007 - June 2008

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Publications

- **Cobo A.**, Wortel-London, S.B., & DeLyser L. (2024, May). A Field Catalyst Approach to Systems Change in K-12 CS Education. *In Proceedings of the 2024 RESPECt Annual Conference (RESPECT 2024)*, May 16-17, 2024, Atlanta, GA, USA. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 5 pages.
- Perkins, A., **Cobo A.**, Wortel-London, S.B., Jones, D.L., & James, D.E. (2024, May). From State Legislation to Implementation: Moving Towards Justice-Centered Computing. *In Proceedings of the 2024 RESPECt Annual Conference (RESPECT 2024)*, May 16-17, 2024, Atlanta, GA, USA. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 5 pages.
- Yan, W., Bennett, A., **Cobo, A.**, & Israel, M. (2024, March). A Cross-Case Analysis of Experienced Educators in CS Inclusion. In *Proceedings of the 55rd ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education V. 2* (pp. 1863-1864).
- **Cobo, A.**, Wortel-London, S.B., DeLyser, L., & James, D. E. (2024, March). Small steps, big progress: Analyzing district led goals to advance CS education. In *Proceedings of the 55rd ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education V. 1* (pp. 221-226).
- Israel, M., Chandler, L., **Cobo, A**., & Weisberg, L. (2023). Increasing access, participation, and inclusion within K-12 CS education through Universal Design for Learning and High Leverage Practices. In S. Sentence & N. Howard (Eds.), Computer science education (2nd ed.). Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Yadav, A., Israel, M., Bouck, E., **Cobo, A**., Samuels, J. (2022). Achieving CSforALL: Preparing special education pre-service teachers to bring computing to students with disabilities. In Proceedings of the 53rd ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education (pp. 196-201).

Conference Presentations

- Isreal, M., & **Cobo, A.** (2023, December). Strategies for including students with disabilities in K-12 CS education. [Hands on Workshop]. Computer Science Week Celebration. Miami Computer Science Teachers Association, Miami, FL.
- Edelman, J., **Cobo, A**., Colley, C., Mckinley, J. (2023, July 12). Cultivating a creative coding community with Scratch educator meetups [Mini session]. Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) annual conference, Virtual Event.
- Israel, M., Li, W., Francsali, C., Bennett, A., Xu, Y., **Cobo, A**. (2023, May 4). Participation of students with disabilities in K-12 computer science education [Virtual Paper]. American Educational Research Association (AERA) annual conference, Virtual Event.
- Israel, M., **Cobo, A**., Chandler, L., Salgado-Ramirez, A., Bennett, A., Weisberg, L. (2023, April 15). Scaffolding through multiple entry points to K-8 computer science participation and inclusion [Structured poster session]. American Educational Research Association (AERA) annual conference, Chicago, IL, United States.
- Bennett, A., Israel, M., **Cobo, A**., Delgado, J. (2023, March).Using the UDL for computer science interactive table [Asynchronous poster session]. Universal Design for Learning Implement and Research Network (UDL-IRN), Virtual Event.
- **Cobo, A**., & Israel, M. (2023, February 2). Increasing participation in K-12 CS education through UDL [Online Workshop]. Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) Inland Empire, Virtual Event.
- Israel, M., & **Cobo A**., (2022, December 10). Strategies for including students with dis/abilities in K-12 CS education [Hands-On Workshop]. Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) computer science education week, Miami, FL, United States.
- Israel, M., **Cobo A**., Bennett A., Barrett, J. (2022, October 29). Increasing participation in K-12 CS education through UDL [Structured mini-session]. Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) how we teach CS, Virtual Event.
- **Cobo, A**., Bennett, A., Lash, T., Israel, M., Bergeron, L. (2022, July 17). Disabilities Inclusion in CSforALL [Hands-On Workshop]. Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) annual conference, Chicago, IL, United States.
- Israel, M., **Cobo A**., Yan, W., Liu R., & Chandler, L. (2022, April 25). Developing scaffolding debugging strategies to support metacognition during programming [Symposium session]. American Educational Research Association (AERA) annual meeting, San Diego, CA, United States.
- **Cobo, A**., Bennett, A., Chandler, L., Ramirez-Salgado, A., Weisberg, L., Williams, J. (2022, April 2). Strategies for using Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in K-8 CS [Breakout session]. Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) equity action summit, Virtual Event.
- **Cobo, A**. (2021, July 14). No more silos: CS in core curriculum with PBL [Hands-On Workshop]. Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) annual conference, Online due to COVID-19.
- **Cobo, A**., Lash, T., Israel, M. (2021, March 10). Strategies for Using Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in Elementary CS to engage all learners [Breakout session]. Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) equity action summit, Virtual Event.
- Sedgwick, V., Powers, K., **Cobo, A**. (2021, January 16). Integrating AI in the K-5 classroom [Breakout session]. Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) future of CS: Emerging concepts in CS education summit, Virtual Event.
- **Cobo, A**. (2020, September). Debugging: A practitioner's perspective. The Lightning Debugging Symposium: A Conversation About Research and Practice in K-12 CS Education, Creative Technology Research Lab, University of Florida.
- Gabaree, L., Rusk, N., Lee, M., **Cobo, A**., Trapp, J. (2019, June 24). Scratch stories: Educators share their experiences and strategies [Panel Discussion]. International Society for Technology Education (ISTE) annual conference, Philadelphia, PA, United States.
- **Cobo, A**. (2018, July). Scratching the Surface with Project-Based Learning [Ignite Talk]. Scratch biennial conference, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, MA, United States.

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Service & Activities

Peer Reviewer

- NSF Reviewer
- ACM-RESPECT, Research Track Reviewer, 24'
- Journal of Research on Technology Education (JRTE), 24'
- ACM - Transactions on Computing Education (TOCE), 23
- EAAI K-12 Paper Track 22-Present
- SIGCSE ERT Track, 23
- Scratch Conference Proposal Reviewer, 23', 24'
- Journal of Undergraduate Research, Spring 23
- CSTA Conference Proposal Reviewer, 2021-2023

Organization Volunteer

- ICER Conference Volunteer, Fall 2023
- Scratch Foundation
  - Creating Pathways Scratch Educator Meetup Organizer, Fall 2023 - Present
  - South Florida Scratch Educator Meetup Organizer, Fall 2018 - Spring 2020

Professional Development & Robotics Coaching

- Pine Crest Preparatory School
  - First Lego League Robotics Coach (Grades 4 -5) 2015-2020
  - Innovation Institute Professional Development Facilitator, 2015 - 2020
  - Google Summit Chair, 2017 - 2018