

# NCCAT Faculty Bios

NORTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING

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**Dr. Bonnie Bolado** joined NCCAT in 2018 as Senior Math Specialist. She came to NCCAT after holding a variety of positions in education and serving as a professional development presenter for various educational organizations. She served as assistant principal of Canton Middle School in Haywood County as well as a math and science teacher in Haywood, Jackson and Onslow counties. She has presented for NCCAT, Western Region Education Service Alliance, North Carolina Principals & Assistant Principals' Association and is a National Board Certified Teacher. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina Wilmington, holds a Master of Educational Leadership and a Doctor of Education degree from Gardner-Webb University.



**Darcy Grimes** joined NCCAT in 2018 as Senior STEM Innovator. She came to NCCAT after a highly successful teaching career which includes serving as North Carolina Teacher of the Year in 2012–2013. She has taught in Asheville City Schools, Watauga and Wilkes County Schools. She received the 2018 NCTIES Outstanding Young Educator Award, the 2012 Northwest Regional NC Teacher of the Year, the 2012 Watauga County Teacher of the Year, and the 2012 Bethel Elementary School Teacher of the Year. She also served as the Digital Lead Teacher at Hall Fletcher Elementary in Asheville City Schools. She holds a Master's degree in Educational Media/Instructional Technology, and a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Appalachian State University.



**Dr. Ernest H. Johnson** joined as NCCAT Faculty in 2003. Since then he has supported almost 6,000 NC teachers. He has developed and facilitated professional development programs such as “Reaching Reluctant Readers: Bringing Boys to Books,” “Reading Resources: Equipping Your Classroom for Reading Success,” and “Motivating Disengaged Students.” Dr. Johnson has several publications on education related topics and has published books that focus on educating young males. Dr. Johnson has mentored numerous youth, encouraging young readers and thinkers to become active and engaged citizens. He holds a PhD in Clinical/Health Psychology from the University of South Florida.



**Elizabeth Joyce** joined NCCAT in 2015 as Senior Digital Learning Specialist. She came to NCCAT after serving four years as an instructional technology specialist (ITS) in Rockingham County Schools. She started teaching at Forsyth Academy, a charter school in Winston-Salem from 2003–2007, where she taught fifth, sixth and eighth grade Language Arts. In 2008, she began teaching for Rockingham County Schools. She taught English I, II, IV, and AP Language and Composition at the high school from which she graduated, Dalton L. McMichael High School, before becoming an ITS in August 2011. She attended NCCAT as an educator in 2010 and 2013.



**Amy Jo Spencer** joined NCCAT full time in 2015 as Senior Literacy Specialist. She came to NCCAT after teaching 14 years in eastern North Carolina. In those 14 years, she taught first through fourth grade, served as a reading interventionist, coordinated the HOSTS (Help One Student to Succeed) program, worked as the Title I Coordinator, and served as a lead teacher for English Language Arts. She also mentored new teachers and provided regional National Board candidate support. She is licensed in K–12 Reading, holds her National Board Certification in Early/Middle Childhood Literacy, and is completing her doctorate in Education Administration and Policy Studies at The George Washington University where her research focuses on leadership for schoolwide teacher learning and development in an era of reform and accountability.