It is an exciting time to be in occupational therapy education. In 2014, the occupational therapy profession developed an educational research agenda to increase scholarly activity to determine the best methods to educate occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant students. Because of the increasing demands in higher education for accountability, and our own evolutionary changes in degree requirements, it is vital to have an educational workforce with the requisite skills to prepare future clinicians for ever-changing health care delivery systems. Many occupational therapists become faculty members without any educational courses in how to teach! While, we have experienced faculty members here at ECU – I want to explore how to help all occupational therapy faculty members became great teachers! There are innovative strategies and methods to explore and to see what practices work best for students.

It is also a time to examine the children who receive occupational therapy services. Occupational therapy’s role in removing barriers to participation for children with disabilities is noteworthy. However, there is more research to be done to explore barriers of children with disabilities and their families to participating in their communities. These children have been found to get less exercise, have less occupational choices, and less opportunities to recreate with other children and their families. Parents have experienced increased financial and emotional stress, isolation, and frustration. I am very interested in investigating and addressing barriers to participation to assist children with disabilities and their families to successfully navigate and integrate into their communities.

**Research Interests:** Participation of children with disabilities in the community, instructional design methods and strategies to enhance student learning, occupational therapy education and development of faculty, animal assisted therapy.

**Research Skills:**
Quantitative research.

**Research Directions:**
- Explore how occupational therapy educators can use universal design to enhance learning of students as well as how occupational therapy practitioners can use these same principles to teach clients/patients when working on independence in daily living tasks.
- Examine what barriers or perceived barriers children with disabilities and their families face to participate in recreational activities in their communities.