

HARTZMAN AWARD HIGHLIGHT

SHWETA CHANDRASHEKHAR

REHABILITATION PSYCHOLOGY AND SPECIAL EDUCATION



Council for Exceptional
Children's Division of
Special Education
Services (DISES)

Bangalore, India
12-14 July 2023



The Hartzman International
Conference Travel Award
enables SoE graduate students
to present their work at
international conferences.
It is made possible through
generous support from Marlene
and Robert Hartzman.



Global Engagement Office
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Attending the international conference organized by the CEC, DISES unit in Bangalore was a gratifying experience. I had the privilege of presenting twice, showcasing teacher education research being conducted at UW-Madison during the conference. The first presentation focused on preservice teachers' perspectives of their student teaching experiences during COVID, and the second presentation delved into how preservice teachers mediated meaning around collaboration. Both presentations were well-received and provided a platform to demonstrate current research work and findings to a diverse, international audience.

The conference featured various research works from scholars and educators worldwide. Notably, research work in the field of reading conducted in South and Central America was highlighted. Many scholars working in the global south and from the United States are sharing resources and training teachers in literacy and numeracy, working with national and regional governments toward professional development.

This model paves the way to brainstorm similar programs that our department can consider. It is an incredible opportunity for preservice teachers to learn in cross-cultural contexts to increase authentic, culturally responsive pedagogy/epistemology in practice. It paves the way for possible avenues for future collaborations with a broader perspective on the subject.

The conference brought together professionals, researchers, and educators from around the globe. Engaging in networking sessions allowed us to connect with like-minded individuals and experts in the field. Presenting research, gaining insights into international research, networking with experts and participating in training opportunities have contributed to my personal and professional growth. One of the unexpected but highly beneficial outcomes of the conference was the various training opportunities that emerged. Three organizations approached me to conduct teacher training workshops, especially on literacy. Besides the organizers, fellow participants, and all those who contributed to the conference's success, I thank the team at the Global Engagement Office for their encouragement and support. I especially extend my sincere gratitude to the Hartzman family whose generosity facilitated this impactful aspect in my journey. The knowledge gained, and connections made during the conference has undoubtedly influenced my academic and professional pursuits.

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