

Alicia Cotabish Biographical Information

Dr. Alicia Cotabish is an Assistant Professor of Teaching and Learning at the University of Central Arkansas where she coordinates the Gifted Education graduate program. Dr. Cotabish is a doctoral graduate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) where she majored in K-12 Administration and Supervision with a co-emphasis in Gifted and Talented Administration. Dr. Cotabish is currently pursuing a graduate certificate from Harvard University in Non-profit Management with an emphasis in Higher Education Management. Previously, she was the Associate Director of the *Jodie Mahony Center for Gifted Education and Advanced Placement Professional Development Center* at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and served as one of two Principal Investigators and the Director of *STEM Starters*, a federally-funded Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented project that was identified by the National Science Teachers Association as exemplary. From 2004 to 2007, Dr. Cotabish coordinated the federally-funded Javits project *Arkansas Evaluation Initiative in Gifted Education*, a state-wide school district program evaluation initiative housed at UALR. Before beginning her career in higher education in 2004, Dr. Cotabish taught eight years in the public school system as an elementary and middle school science teacher, a K-12 gifted and talented teacher, and was an award-winning district-level gifted program administrator. She has authored, co-authored, and contributed to 4 books, 48 book chapters, journal articles, and products focused on K-20 STEM and gifted education; and 36 refereed academic research papers and technical reports tied to externally-funded and university-based research initiatives. She has delivered nearly 200 professional development workshops, presentations, and keynotes at local, state, national, and international venues, and serves as a National Association for Gifted Children Expert Speaker.

In 2012, Dr. Cotabish received the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) *Early Leader Award*. Moreover, she received the 2012 Arkansans for Gifted and Talented Education (AGATE) *Challenger Award* for her work in STEM and gifted education and was the recipient of the *Educator Award* from the organization in 2007. She was honored with the *Texas A&M University – Texarkana Distinguished Alumna Award* in 2008. As a graduate student, the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) awarded her the *2006 Doctoral Student Award* for potential leadership and early scholarship in the field of gifted education. Committed to service, Dr. Cotabish has served on over 30 boards and committees for state and national education organizations including the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (board), Council for Exceptional Children – The Association of the Gifted (board), and the National Association for Gifted Children (committees). Currently, Dr. Cotabish is the President of the Arkansas Association of Gifted Education Administrators (AAGEA), a board member of the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA), and the former Legislative Co-Chair of Arkansans for Gifted and Talented Education (AGATE). In regard to service to promote scholarship, she is an editorial referee for a number of editorial journals including *Teaching Exceptional Children*, *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*, *Journal of STEM Education Innovation and Research*, *School Science and Mathematics*, *Journal of Advanced Academics*, *Journal for the Education of the Gifted*, *Gifted Child Quarterly*, *Gifted Child Today*, *Teaching for High Potential*, and the *Journal of Asia Pacific Education Review* (journal of the Education Research Institute at Seoul National University). She is an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Advanced Academics*, and is on the editorial review board of *Gifted Child Quarterly* and *Teaching for High Potential*. Her recent research has focused on K-20 STEM and gifted education, and examining the effects of virtual coaching on the quality of pre-service and gifted education teacher candidates using Skype and Bluetooth Bug-in-the-Ear (BIE) technology.