

Cynthia Shanahan

Cynthia Shanahan is a professor of Literacy, Language and Culture and Executive Director of the Council on Teacher Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). In her role as professor, she teaches pre-service and in-service teachers to teach middle and high school literacy. She taught for eight years in K-8 schools in California, Guam, Colorado, Arizona, and Georgia as an elementary teacher, special education teacher, and reading specialist. She received an EdD in Reading Education from the University of Georgia in 1984, and taught at Georgia State (1984-1986) and the University of Georgia (1986-2000). At the University of Georgia, she taught college students to meet the reading and study demands of their college courses of study. She was also a principal investigator in the National Reading Research Center, an OERI-funded center for the study of literacy and studied the role of text in learning science and history.

Her research and teaching interests are in adolescent literacy, including content area reading and comprehension of informational text. Specifically, she studies how reading strategies and text characteristics influence students' comprehension and critical thinking. She has extensive publications, including the book *Learning from Text Across Conceptual Domains* (Lawrence Erlbaum Associates). Currently she is working on a project funded by the Carnegie Corporation to create discipline-based strategies to help students learn from history, mathematics, and science texts.