

# Susan Gingras Fitzell

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## Summary

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Susan Fitzell, M. Ed., CSP, transforms teaching from whole-class instruction that teaches to the middle to instruction that structures and enhances lessons to reach every student, whether gifted or struggling. She is a dynamic, nationally recognized presenter, author of over twelve books for teachers and parents, an educational consultant, and CEO of Aim Hi Educational Programs, LLC. She launched the firm in 1993 while enjoying a successful career teaching students with special needs. Today, Susan works side-by-side with teachers and administrators, kindergarten through high school, as a coach and trainer. She has over 30 years of experience in the education field.

## Core Qualifications

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- Expert strategist and problem solver for student and classroom challenges
- Manages classroom for diverse populations
- Excellent classroom management skills
- Strong collaborator
- Extensive experience with students with special needs
- Innovative lesson planning strategist
- Experience with instructional design
- Effectively works with parents
- Creative questioning
- Performance assessments
- Critical thinking
- Differentiated instruction expert
- Clear public speaking skills
- Instructional best practices
- Technology in the Classroom
- Tailoring curriculum plans
- Proven ability to customize to client needs

## Achievements

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### Publications Include (Not all publications listed):

- Free the Children: Conflict Education for Strong Peaceful Minds, New Society Publishers (1997).
- Umm...Studying? What's That? Learning Strategies for the Overwhelmed and Confused College and High School Student, Cogent Catalyst (2006).
- Transforming Anger to Personal Power: An Anger Management Curriculum for Gr. 6-12, Research Press (2007).
- Special Needs in the General Classroom: Strategies That Make It Work, 2nd Edition. Cogent Catalyst (2010).
- Paraprofessionals and Teachers Working Together: Highly Effective Strategies for Inclusive Classrooms, 2nd Edition, Cogent Catalyst, (2010).
- Co-Teaching and Collaboration in the Classroom, 2nd Edition Cogent Catalyst (2010).
- RTI Strategies for Secondary Teachers, Corwin Press (2011)
- Using iPads and Other Cutting Edge Technology to Strengthen Your Instruction, Cogent Catalyst (2013)

### Articles routinely published in:

Teachers.net Gazette  
Pattaya Today Newspaper, Thailand

### Awards:

National Speakers Association, Certified Speaking Professional designation

## Professional Experience Includes

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### CEO

January 1993 - Current

#### Aim Hi Educational Programs, LLC – Manchester, New Hampshire

- As an independent consultant and coach, Susan works with individual schools and entire districts, offering the personalization, continuity, and consistency necessary for true change.
- Custom designs and presents in-service programs based on client needs assessment.
- Quickly establishes rapport and is able to see the big picture, focus on the challenges, and identify the solutions needed to raise student achievement.
- Supports school leadership as an integral part of the change process.
- Topics include: Response to Intervention, Lesson Planning that Maximizes Time and Efficacy, Bullying Prevention, Special Needs/Inclusion - Strategies for Differentiation, Motivating Students, Anger Management, Parenting.
- Provides programs that motivate, inspire AND deliver high level, research-based content that promotes rigor.

## **Adjunct Faculty**

**University of New Hampshire** – Manchester, NH, January 1987 - January 2007

**Notre Dame College** – Manchester, New Hampshire, January 1997 - January 1999

- Developed and implemented interesting and interactive learning mediums to increase student understanding of course materials.
- Successfully improved adult learner participation in the classroom through integration of creative role-playing exercises.
- Created meaningful learning experiences through stories that created analogies between instructor experience and participant experience.

## **Special Education Teacher**

**Londonderry High School**, Londonderry, NH, 1987 - 2000

- Implemented Inclusive Education as a Learning Disabilities teacher in the regular classroom, as well as periodically teaching replacement classes in Science, English and Math.
- Performed student background reviews to develop tailored lessons based on student needs.
- Used a variety of teaching techniques to encourage critical thinking and discussion in 9th and 10th grade Science co-taught classes.
- Modified the general education curriculum for students with special needs based upon a variety of instructional techniques and technologies.
- Employed hands-on learning and researched based best practice techniques to encourage student learning and build community within the classroom.
- Combined discipline plan with effective measures and various lesson plans to increase concentration, participation, and progress student accountability.
- Successfully worked with parents to resolve conflicting educational priorities and issues.

**Merrimack Valley School District**, Penacook, NH, 1982 - 1983.

- Team taught pre-vocational skills to educationally challenged youth.

**Hampshire Regional High School**, Easthampton, MA, 1980 - 1982

- Designed and implemented a work experience program for students with special needs.

## **Education and Training**

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### **Antioch New England Graduate School**

Keene, New Hampshire, U.S.A.

Masters of Education

- Concentration: Foundations in Education
- Focus: Conflict Resolution & Special Education

### **Rivier College**

Nashua, New Hampshire, U.S.A.

Bachelor of Arts

- Elementary Education & General Special Needs

## **Certifications**

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- Certified in the State of New Hampshire in Elementary Education, General Special Needs, and Specific Learning Disabilities
- Highly Qualified Grades 1-6, State of New Hampshire

## **Affiliations**

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National Speakers Association

National Speakers Association of New England, Past Membership Chair

National Speakers Association of New England, Past Sponsorship Chair

Learning Forward New Hampshire, Past President