

**Cynthia A. Char, Ed.D.**  
**Char Associates**  
**Montpelier, VT**  
**(802)224-9955**  
**www.charassociates.com**

## **PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION**

- 1977 Swarthmore College, B.A. in Psychology and Linguistics.  
1979 Harvard Graduate School of Education, Ed.M. in Human Development.  
1985 Harvard Graduate School of Education, Ed.D. in Human Development

## **APPOINTMENTS**

- 1985-present Principal, Char Associates, Montpelier, VT

Provide evaluation services for organizations developing and implementing educational programs, products and training. Evaluations include: educational programs and curricula developed for schools, universities, after schools, libraries and museums; teachers' professional development, use of educational technology to promote children's learning; collaborative partnerships between community-based groups, schools and universities, and mentoring.

- 1987-1996 Senior Associate, Center for Learning, Teaching, and Technology, Education Development Center, Newton, MA.

- 1981- 1987 Research Scientist/Media Designer, Center for Children and Technology, Bank Street College of Education, New York, NY.

- 1979-1981 Researcher, Harvard Project Zero, Cambridge, MA.

## **SELECTED PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS**

- Char, C. and Friesner, J. (2012) *COASST: Citizen Science for Coastal Observation and Seabird Scientific Surveys*. A report for COASST, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.
- Char, C. and Clark, L. (2011) *Math Off the Shelf: Encouraging Children's Mathematics Learning through Public Libraries, Evaluation Report, Year 4*. A report for TERC, Cambridge, MA.
- Char, C. and Berube, S. (2011) *Everybody Wins Vermont: 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Evaluation of Mentoring Children's Literacy in Vermont*. Report for Everybody Wins Vermont, Montpelier, VT.
- May, V., Luxon, T., Weaver, K., Esselstein, R., and Char, C. (2008) *Development of Case Stories by Interviewing Students about their Critical Moments Experienced in Science, Math and Engineering Classes*. The Electronic Journal of the National Numeracy Network, Vol. 1, Issue 1. Berkeley, CA: Berkeley Electronic Press.
- Char, C. & Miller, C. (2006) *Evaluation of Mad Science: Educational Science Enrichment for Children*. A report for Mad Science Group, Montreal, Canada.
- Char, C. & Newman, D. (2005) *Classroom Field Test of Scott Foresman's Elementary Science Curriculum*. A report for Scott Foresman, Glenview, IL.
- Char, C. & Rockman, S. (2002) *Living on Earth Ecological Literacy Project: Year Two Evaluation*. A report for Living on Earth, Cambridge, MA.
- Char, C. (2002) *Evaluation of Science in the Stacks: A Museum-Library Collaboration to Create Traveling Science Exhibits for Libraries*. A report for the Montshire Museum of Science, Norwich, VT.

- Char, C. (1996) *Animal Inquiries: An Inter-disciplinary Unit for Elementary and Middle School Students: Teacher Case Studies of Student Learning*. A report prepared for the Montshire Museum of Science, Norwich, VT.
- Char, C. & Hawkins, J. (1987). Helping Chart the Course: Involving Teachers in Formative Research and Design of the “Voyage of the Mimi.” In R.D. Pea & K. Sheingold, *Mirrors of Minds: Patterns of Experience in Educational Computing*. Norwood, NJ: Ablex.

## **SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES**

**Evaluator and Research advisor** on variety of STEM projects for K-12, currently including:

- **Zoo and Aquarium Action Research Collaborative (ZAARC)**, TERC and Oregon State (Andee Rubin and John Falk). Research project on the professional development of zoo and aquarium educators through collaborative action research on visitor learning and engagement. (NSF-ISE)
- **Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST)**, University of Washington (Julia Parrish) Citizen science project that engages trained, non-scientist community members in collecting data on beached birds on more than 300 beaches from northern California to Alaska. (NSF-ISE)
- **Massachusetts Linking Experiences and Pathways (M-LEAP)**, Goodman Research Group (Irene Goodman). Research study investigating gender differences in early science experiences in and out of school leading to 8th Grade science achievement-related choices. (NSF-REESE)
- **The Dynamic Earth**, Montshire Museum of Science (Greg DeFrancis). Museum project of Earth science programs and exhibits for youth and adults. (NASA)
- **Youth Stewardship Initiative**, ECHO and Lake Champlain Basin Science Center (Molly Loomis). Capacity-building project to expand opportunities for youth to serve as stewards of the Lake (IMLS).
- **Formative Assessment in the Mathematics Classroom: Engaging Teachers and Students (FACETS)**, Education Development Center (Fred Gross). Research study of professional development on formative assessment for middle school mathematics teachers. (NSF-DRK12)
- **Coherent Implementation of Mathematics Instructional Materials (Co-MIM)**, Education Development Center (June Mark and Deborah Spencer). Research study investigating the effects of district-level strategies for instructional improvement in elementary mathematics. (NSF-DRK12)

**Grants reviewer**, US Department of Education (Race to the Top, i3 (Investing in Innovation Fund), National Science Foundation, Vermont Community Foundation.

**Participant**, Invited NSF ISE working conference: *2020 Vision: The Next Generation of STEM Learning Research* (Oregon State, August 2009)

## **COLLABORATORS AND OTHER AFFILIATIONS**

Lynn Goldsmith, June Mark, Deborah Spencer, and William Tally, Education Development Center  
Irene Goodman, Goodman Research Group  
Greg DeFrancis, Montshire Museum of Science  
John Falk and Lynn Dierking, Oregon State University  
Molly Loomis, ECHO and Lake Champlain Basin Science Center  
Andee Rubin and Marlene Kliman, TERC  
Julia Parrish, University of Washington