Brendan P. Vander Weil

Curriculum Vitae

bren.vanderweil@txstate.edu
(402) 369-1980
145 Evans Liberal Arts, Texas State University
San Marcos, TX 78666

Education

Doctor of Philosophy in Geography **2026**
Texas State University, College of Arts and Science
Advisor: Dr. Michael Solem
Thesis: Addressing student aspirations and achievement gaps in geocomputation: a study of curriculum making in the Sweetwater Union high school district

Master of Science in Geography **2021**
University of Nebraska Omaha, College of Arts and Science
Thesis: Associations of U.S. social studies standards and public opinion on climate change education
Advisor: Dr. Christina Dando
Thesis Chair: Dr. Zachary Suriano

Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences Education **2013**
Wayne State College, College of Education

Research Experience

Doctoral Research Assistant **2021-2025**
Dr. Michael Solem, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Texas State University Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education
-Encoding Geography NSF Grant
-National Assessment for Educational Progress Work
-APHG across age, race/ethnicity, and gender data collection and analysis

Research Assistant **05/2020-08/2021**
Dr. Zachary Suriano, Department of Geography/Geology, University of Nebraska Omaha Climatology Laboratory
-Climate Change Education and Public Opinion

Teaching Experience

Doctoral Instructor of Record **08/2023-Present**

Physical Geography (Our Dynamic Earth), Research Methods, World Geography, Political Geography & Meteorology, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Texas State University, San Marcos

- Taught and designed materials and assessments for in-person physical geography classes (Spring 2023-present) including helping oversee teaching assistants for the lab component of instruction enrollment of 50 students per section
- Taught and designed materials and assessments for in-person Political Geography class with an enrollment of 60 students (Spring 2026)
- Taught and designed materials and assessments for in-person World Geography classes with an enrollment of 120 students (Fall 2025-present)
- Taught and designed materials and assessments for in-person Research Methods class with an enrollment of 30 students (Fall 2025)
- Taught and designed materials and assessments for an online, asynchronous meteorology course with an enrollment of 100 (Fall 2023)

Graduate Teaching Assistant **08/2019-05/2021**

Physical Geology, Department of Geography/Geology, University of Nebraska Omaha

- Taught and designed materials and assignments for three laboratory sections on physical geology including mineral properties, mineral identification, remote sensing, and climate change.

Guest English Teacher **2016-2018**

Gochang-gun English Center, Jeollabuk-do, South Korea

- Lead teacher in an English immersion classroom grade 3-12
- Taught world geography, science, math, cooking
- Lead four English camps and published accompanying texts
- Judged Gochang-gun Middle School English essays and speeches (Spring 2017 & 2018)

High School Teacher **2014-2016**

Omaha Public Schools, Secondary Success Program, Omaha Nebraska

- Social studies and math teacher for expelled students of the Omaha school system
- Taught geography, US history, remedial seventh and eighth grade math, Algebra I
- Lead parent teacher conferences
- Exposed to a culturally diverse setting and developed skills for working with at risk students
- Organized and participated in afterschool workouts with at risk students and police officers

Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

Texas State University Doctoral Graduate Assistantship	2021-2025
AAG National Geobowl 3rd Place	2024
Detlefsen Field Study Award	2022
University of Nebraska Omaha Graduate Teaching Assistantship	2019-2021
University of Nebraska Research Symposium Award	2019
Team Leader of the Year, Wayne State College New Student Orientation	2012
Eagle Scout, Wayne Troop 174	2007

Conference Presentations and Invited Lectures

Vander Weil BP. 2026. Presentation: *Factors Associated with Student Achievement in Geography and Technology and Engineering Literacy: A Comparative Review of NAEP Data*. PANGEA Conference. 27 February, San Marcos, TX

Vander Weil BP. 2024. Panel: *Meet the Professors Panel* . Student Urban Planning Organization. September 2025, San Marcos, TX

Vander Weil BP. 2024. Presentation: *Challenges in Teacher Preparation for United States Geography Education: Bridging the Gap for Effective Instruction*. Southwest American Association of Geographers. 08 October, San Marcos, TX

Vander Weil BP. 2024. Presentation*: Frequency and Distribution of U.S Social Studies Climate Standards and their Relationship to Public Opinion on Climate*. Southwest American Association of Geographers. 08 October, San Marcos, TX

Vander Weil BP. 2024. Panel: *Powerful Geography: New Teaching and Learning K-12*. Southwest American Association of Geographers. 07 October, San Marcos, TX

Vander Weil BP. 2024. Geography Education Leadership Academy Cohost: *Powerful Geography Methodology Implementation at the Tertiary Level*. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education Leadership Academy. 30 July, San Marcos, TX

Vander Weil BP. 2024. Presentation: *Advanced Placement Human Geography: Program Access and Effectiveness by Grade Level, 2001–2020.* American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. 19 April, Honolulu, HI

Vander Weil BP. 2023. Presentation: *Advanced Placement Human Geography: Program Access and Effectiveness by Grade Level, 2001–2020.* Southwest American Association of Geographers. 02, November, Laredo, TX

Vander Weil BP. 2023. Presentation: *Representations of low (er) alcohol (craft) beer in the United States.* American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. 24 March, Denver, CO

Vander Weil BP. 2022. Panel: *Bridging the Geography Education Gap between K-12 and College (Encoding Geography initiative).* American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. 02 February, New York, NY (online).

Vander Weil BP. 2022. Panel: *Powerful Geography.*. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. 02 February, New York, NY (online).

Vander Weil BP. 2022 Invited Lecture: *Taking the temperature of the room: climate's changing perspective*. Wayne State College Gamma Theta Upsilon invited lecturer. 03 March, Wayne, NE

Vander Weil BP. 2021. Presentation: *Meaningful Climate Change Education: Preliminary Results on Associations between U.S. Social Studies Educational Standards and Public Opinion on Climate Change Education***.** American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. 07 April, Virtual

Vander Weil BP. 2020. Presentation: *Meaningful Climate Change Education: Preliminary Results on Associations between U.S. Social Studies Educational Standards and Public Opinion on Climate Change Education***.** Geographic Educators of Nebraska. Geofest, 14 November, Omaha, NE

Vander Weil BP, Frewing C, Andelt, E. 2019. Presentation: *What is a story map?* 2019 Biennial Symposium, Nebraska GIS/LIS Association, 23 April – 25 April, La Vista, Ne

Vander Weil BP, 2019. Invited Lecture: *Backpacking with Bren: From Teaching in Korea to Traveling the World.* International Club Invitation. Wayne State College, 21 February, Wayne, NE

Publications

B. P. Vander Weil and Z. Suriano. 2026. *Frequency and Distribution of K-12 U.S. Social Studies Climate Change Educational Standards*. The Professional Geographer (in review)

Solem, M., **B. P. Vander Weil**, and Y. Choi. 2024. *Advanced Placement Human Geography: Program Access and Effectiveness by Grade Level, 2001–2020*. The Professional Geographer 76 (1):66–76.

Myles, C. C., **B. Vander Weil**, B. Watson, and D. S. Wiley. 2023. *"Sober Curious" or "Semi-Sober"? An Exploration of the Moderation Movement in the United States as "Trendy*

Teetotalism" or "Neo-Temperance." In The Geography of Beer: Policies, Perceptions, and Place, eds. M. W. Patterson and N. Hoalst-Pullen, 279–291. Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland

Solem, M., **B. Vander Weil**, R. G. Boehm, and J. Zadrozny. 2022. *Powerful Geography at Work.* AAG. https://www.aag.org/powerful-geography-at-work/ (last accessed 20 April 2023).

Myles, C. C., **B. Vander Weil**, D. Wiley, and B. Watson. 2022. *Representations of Low(er) Alcohol (Craft) Beer in the United States*. Nutrients 14 (23):4952.

Memberships

American Association of Geographers (AAG)
Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG)
National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE)
Texas Alliance for Geographic Education (TAGE)
Geographic Educators of Nebraska (GEON)
Nebraska GIS/LIS Association
Sierra Club

Technical Skills

Analysis Software: ArcGIS, Google Earth Pro, SPSS, MS Office
Operating Systems: Windows, MAC
Languages: English, Korean (Beginner to Intermediate)
Teaching Methodologies: Direct Instruction, Differentiated Instruction, Flipped Classroom, Inquiry-Based Learning, Powerful Geography

Service

Academic

- Editorial Board Member, The Geography Teacher 2021-Present
- Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education Member 2021-Present

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Texas State University

- Bobcat Days Undergraduate Recruitment 2025-Present
- Accepted Students Day at TXST Spring 2025
- Graduate Forum Community Organizer 2022-2025
- Graduate Council Representative 2024-2025
- Graduate Forum Colloquium Representative 2023-2024

Department of Geography/Geology, University of Nebraska Omaha

- Graduate Student Representative 2020-2021
- Graduate School Representative for Student Senate 2019-2020
- UNO Day of Service Volunteer 2019-2021
- National Geographic Geography Bee volunteer 2019

Community

- San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance Member 2021-Present
- Wayne Elementary Guest Speaker 2019
- Rotary Club Guest Speaker 2019
- Boy Scouts Troop 204 Guest Speaker 2019
- Fulbright Recruitment Guest Speaker 2019