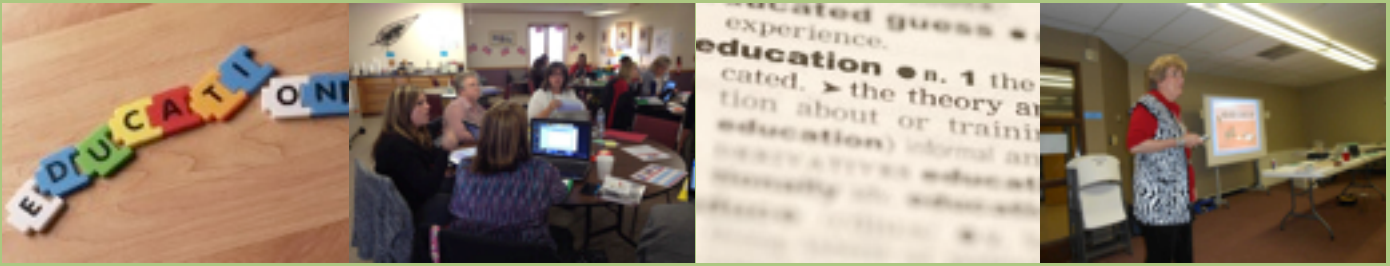


Candidates for LF KS Board



Election for Learning Forward Kansas Board ~ April 8, 2014

Election for members of the 2014-2015 Learning Forward Kansas Board

will be held at the LF KS Leadership Conference
on the morning of April 8, 2014. All LF KS members are eligible to vote.

President-Elect Pam Irwin



Current Work Position: Director of Staff Development and Accreditation,
USD 305 Salina

Education: Bachelors of Science, Fort Hays State University (FHSU); Masters in
Instructional Technology, FHSU; Masters in Educational Administration, FHSU

Professional Experience: I spent 8 years as a Physical Education/Health Teacher
in Herndon and Ellis, KS, 7 years as a Curriculum Technologist coaching teachers
on effective uses of technology in the classroom, and the last 6 years as the Director
of Staff Development and Accreditation. My current and previous position have
been in Salina, KS with Salina Public Schools.

As an educator for over 20 years, I've seen things come and go in our profession. The one thing that seems to stand the test of time is quality professional learning for all. It is important, actually critical, to the increase in student achievement for the professional learning to be provided in a way that translates to the classroom. By embedding the Professional Learning standards into your everyday practice, you increase the impact made on every student in your system. I truly believe in the Learning Forward motto: "Every Educator Engages in Effective Professional Learning Every Day so Every Student Achieves."



Ever heard of E6?

Every educator engages in effective professional learning every day so every student achieves.

Secretary

Vicki Bechard



Current Work Positions: Adjunct Instructor, Baker University School of Education Graduate Department; Adjunct Instructor, Highland Community College; Educational Consultant/Owner, Teaching and Learning Consulting Network, LLC

Education: Bachelor's Degree (BS) in Physical Education, Kansas State University; Master's Degree (MS) in Building Leadership (Administration), Emporia State University

Professional Experience: I taught in public schools for 32 years before becoming a consultant for 2 years. I retired in 2012 to do my own consulting and teach at the college level. Early in my career, I taught at Clifton-Clyde and Oskaloosa, but spent the last 28 years of my teaching career at McLouth

USD 342. I have a wide range of K-12 classroom experience and served in several leadership positions, including District Steering Chairperson for School Improvement, Athletic Director and Interim Principal. Throughout my career, I have been active in organizing, facilitating, and providing professional learning opportunities for my own school, other schools, and at conferences.

I have served on the Learning Forward Kansas Board, initially as the East of 281 Representative, as Chairperson of the Awards Committee, and have been secretary since 2012. In 2009, I was honored to be presented with the Learning Forward District Staff Developer of the Year Award.

Professional learning has played a significant role in my educational career as I sought to increase my own knowledge and skills and to help others gain new understandings. I believe we, as educators, have the responsibility to improve instructional practices that lead to higher student achievement. In my position on the Learning Forward Kansas board, I have worked hard to help others understand the role of professional learning so that they may successfully implement and sustain the change initiatives facing schools today. I will continue to work toward the goal of making Learning Forward's Standards of Professional Learning the guiding principles of every building and district as they work to improve teaching and learning.

Principal Blake Vargas



Current Work Position: Principal at Field Kindley High School, USD 445, Coffeyville, KS

Education: Bachelor of Education in Social Studies, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK; Masters Degree in Educational Administration, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS. Pursuing EdS Degree from Pittsburg State University

Professional Experience: I have had the honor of beginning my service at Charles Page High School as a U.S. History and Non-Western Culture Teacher. From there, I continued teaching U.S. History and also coached while at El Dorado Middle School. The last stop along my educational journey led me to Coffeyville to serve first as the Assistant Principal and now am currently the head of the Nado Family as Principal of the high school.

If elected, I look forward to increasing my own professional learning, which I believe is the key to success for our profession. With decreasing budgets we must focus on research-based strategies that we know will create a positive impact for the students that we serve. As professionals, we should turn to the experts within our own school and surrounding districts. The need for increased collaboration has never been higher in order to meet the needs of College and Career Readiness.

Representative B West of Hwy 281 Kim Panzer



Current Work Position: Director of Special Services: Coordinator of the Migrant, Migrant Family Literacy Program, and ESL programs, member of the District Leadership Team, USD 215, Lakin

Education: Bachelor of Science, Biology Education, Oklahoma Panhandle State University; Master of Science, Education Administration, Fort Hays State University; Endorsements in ESL and 7-12 English Language Arts, General Science, Physical Science, Chemistry

Professional Experience: At-Risk Middle School Reading Teacher in Lakin; Seventh Grade Science Teacher at Kenneth Henderson Middle School in Garden City; High School ESL Teacher in Lakin; Junior High Science Teacher at South Gray Junior High in Copeland; High School Biology Teacher at Dodge City High School in Dodge City; Adjunct Instructor for Fort Hays State University; Freelance Consultant for Southwest Plains Regional Service Center in Sublette

With the adoption of the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards; Next Generation Science Standards; History, Government and Social Studies Standards, it is more important now than ever that Kansas educators live the vision of being life-long learners. One of the most important ways to achieve this is to be stewards of quality and effective professional learning. Professional learning must include knowledge of the standards, as well as time to reflect on the application and practice of the art and science of teaching. I am excited to be nominated for the opportunity to lead Kansas educators on this new journey.

Representative B East of Hwy 281

Dr. Jill Bergerhofer



Current Work Position: Education Services Support Team: Program Lead of New Teacher District Mentor; Program Coordinator of Effective Teacher Modules; Co-chair of district Professional Development Council, USD 229 Blue Valley

Education: Bachelor's in Elementary Education, University of Kansas; Master's in Education, Mid-America Nazarene University; and this month, Doctorate in Education Leadership, Baker University; Professional licenses in Teaching, Teacher Leadership, and Building Leadership; District Level license, Wichita State University (WSU); Doctor in Educational Administration, WSU

Professional Experience: I have been in education for more than 30 years. I taught students in middle school for nearly 20 years in Kansas City 33 School District and USD 229. For the past 8 years, I have been a member of the Blue Valley Education

Services Support Team, serving teachers and principals across our district. As a member of this team, I act as School Improvement Specialist partnering with principals, K-12, to plan and facilitate building level, job-embedded professional development related to the BV Strategic Plan; and, develop trusting confidential relationship with beginning teachers to foster and support professionalism and instructional excellence in teachers new to the profession. I have served as a co-chair of the District PDC since 2002 - collaboratively planning, facilitating, and debriefing monthly PDC meetings; facilitating the writing of the current and previous two district 5-year professional development plans; and supporting and guiding learning and growth of district staff members through professional development in order to increase student learning.

Through a mix of humility and professional will, I am committed to serving and fostering communities that are learning organizations, share responsibility and leadership, believe that all individual can and will learn, and do whatever it takes to support professional and personal growth. I believe in and work to ensure professional development that translates into positively impacting student learning.

KSDE Representative

Sandy Guidry



Current Work Position: Assistant Director, Early Childhood Special Education and Title Services, Kansas State Department of Education

Education: Bachelor's Social Work, Human Development, Kansas State University; Master's Curriculum and Instruction, University of Kansas; District Leadership License, Pittsburg State University, Building Leadership License, Kansas State University

Professional Experience: School Improvement Coordinator, KSDE; 4 years Director of Curriculum and Instruction, USD 458 Basehor-Linwood; 7 years Assistant Principal, Basehor-Linwood High School; 10 years Middle School English Teacher, Smoky Valley

My journey in the field of education has brought me to the Kansas State Department of Education. My experiences as a teacher, building administrator, district administrator and now as part of the KSDE leadership team have given me a broad perspective on education in Kansas. A key to increasing student achievement is quality professional learning at all levels. "Job-embed" must be more than the current catch phrase. Collaboration on-the-job is essential as we change the face of professional learning.

Service Center Representative

Tamara Konrade



Current Work Position: Coordinator for Professional Development, ESSDACK

Education: BS in Elementary Education, Fort Hays State University; MS in Educational Administration, Wichita State University

Professional Experience: In addition to my experience at ESSDACK, I served as the Director of Student Learning at Valley Center School District in KS. During my time there, I had the opportunity to work with dedicated professionals facilitating curriculum, instruction, and assessment decisions for the district, which served approximately 2,000 students. Before joining the Valley Center team, I worked as an educational specialist at ESSDACK and was the Inman, KS K-6 building principal. I started my career in McPherson, KS working as an elementary classroom teacher and district literacy coach.

My hope for the future of education is that every system – national, state, and local – meet the needs of all students by creating a learning environment where students and staff experience personalized, meaningful and relevant learning.

Teacher B Representative

Michele Peres



Current Work Position: Sixth Grade Mathematics Teacher and Council for Professional Learning Chair, USD 259 Wichita, United Teachers of Wichita Executive Board Member

Education: BS with Early Childhood and ESL endorsements, Wichita State University

Professional Experience: I have been teaching for 14 years. I taught Third Grade for six years and the past eight years at the middle school level.

My belief is that through effective and sustained professional learning, school improvement can occur. However, due to time restraints and poor training, professional learning is not always meaningful. Yet with proper, meaningful professional learning, educators can be provided the resources and guidance to be successful. Being a member of Learning Forward Kansas, as well as the board, provides me the Professional learning opportunities to increase my own skills in implementing quality learning practices on my team, in my building and district. Professional learning and growth is a key to becoming quality instructional leaders.