

PRESENTER BIOS



BORGIONE, RENEE

Renee Borgione has been an educator for seventeen years. She has worked as a classroom teacher, reading interventionist, and is currently working as a literacy coach. She enjoys teaching and learning alongside middle grade students and teachers in the Orange City Schools.



COOK, AARON R.

Aaron R. Cook has functioned as a mathematics teacher, assistant principal, principal, and director of curriculum and assessment. Aaron has worked with teachers on instructional design, has taught a college PBL course to current teachers.



DE TILLIO, VINCE

Vince De Tillio is the Supervisor of Secondary Curriculum for Olentangy Local School District. Vince began his career as a middle school social studies teacher where he focused on student engagement and problem-solving. He has also served as an instructional coach, helping teachers meld Understanding by Design, formative assessment, and project-based learning. As a curriculum supervisor, he works to develop and refine researched-based processes for curriculum development. He enjoys facilitating collaborative conversations and thinking alongside teachers.

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DEXTER, LINDSAY

Lindsay Dexter is an elementary instructional coach in the Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools. She previously taught both fourth and fifth grades for five years. Lindsay has presented at the 2015 Ohio Special Education Leadership Conference along with facilitating numerous professional learning opportunities for elementary teachers in the areas of math and literacy.



DRAKE, SUSAN

Susan Drake is an elementary principal in Worthington Schools. She has over 20 years of experience as a classroom teacher, teacher of English learners, instructional coach, and principal. She has taught preschool through adult learners in a variety of locales, including Columbus, New Orleans, Japan, and Ethiopia. She has presented at Learning Forward and is an Ohio Master Teacher.



ESHELMAN, ANDREA

Andrea Eshelman has worked with K-12 schools and public libraries for 10 years as a Trainer and Education Sales Consultant. She has a BA in Economics and English from Wittenberg University and Masters in Middle Childhood Education from Kent State University. Andrea has authored several white papers and conducted training sessions throughout Ohio and the U.S.

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**FARRENKOPF,
PATRICIA**

Patricia Farrenkopf has served as a K-12 general education classroom teacher, gifted intervention specialist, gifted coordinator, building level principal, and professor at the college level. She currently is an Adjunct Professor and Faculty Course Designer for Ashland University. She is also the Lead Facilitator for the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio Educator Gifted Academies. She co-directs the Essex School for the Gifted at Otterbein University and teaches for Northwestern University Center for Talent Development in their Gifted Learning Links Online Student Program.



GURNEY, AMANDA

In my 8 years working in elementary education, the one thing that drives my decisions is the belief that kids are complex little humans that need our help to learn. The challenge in our profession is that kids all need different things, and it's our job to find it. In that spirit I seek to learn what is best for kids, and then implement it wholeheartedly. With a masters degree in Educational Leadership, I have developed a passion for teaching and helping other colleagues. We are our best selves for our students, when we first take the time to learn from each other and challenge ourselves to grow. To quote Lucy Calkins, "Be a brave learner. Be brave enough to outgrow your own best teaching."

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KROHN, CHRISTA

Christa Krohn has been an educator for 16 years teaching 5th grade through college in Math and Physics. She has worked as a teacher, gifted teacher, adjunct college professor and Instructional Math Coach (K-8). Currently she is working as a K-8 Instructional Math Coach in Orange City Schools, Pepper Pike, Ohio. Christa is working with ODE, Innovation Lab Network, Stanford University's Center for Assessment, Learning and Equity, and Envision Learning Partners to integrate Performance Based Assessment and Competency Based Education into Ohio's practices. Christa is also on the Learning Forward Ohio Executive Board and was the recipient of the 2017 OCTM middle school teacher award for the Northeast Ohio District. She resides in Shaker Heights, OH with her husband, two kids (ages 13 & 16) and dogs.



LEISIKOW, JENNIFER

Jennifer Leistikow is the Media Integration Specialist/Technology Coach grades six through twelve at Lakewood Local Schools in Hebron, Ohio. She has been a teacher since 2007. Before she was a teacher, she worked as a graphic designer of print media for 15 years and has always had a passion for technology and teaching. As a Technology Coach, she has the best of both the technology and teaching worlds and loves every minute of it! She is married and has two adult children. Other than her human family, she lives with many cats, a dog, and two horses.

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LUST, BRANDI

Brandi Lust is a writer, speaker, teacher, and founder of Learning Lab Consulting. She has more than a decade of experience as an educator and facilitator, and has worked with over 30 K-12 school districts to increase personal health and build community. Brandi has a Bachelor's degree in English from The Ohio State University and earned her M.A.Ed. from Mount Vernon Nazarene University.



MCCLASKEY, DIANE

Diane McClaskey is a 7-12 certified mathematics teacher with 9 years' experience at the high school level. Mostly a teacher of honors and AP courses, this teacher's data revolved around the growth of gifted students. Now serving as a Gifted Coordinator for math and science at Olentangy Orange Middle School, sharing teaching strategies for enrichment has become a passion. Diane has previously presented at various local conferences and is a Facilitator for the ESCCO Gifted Educator Academy.



MILLER, JAKE

Jake Miller is an authorized Google Apps for Education Trainer and is currently the Technology Integration Coach for Brady Middle School in the Orange City School District. At Brady, Jake helps manage the implementation of Google Apps, 1:1 Chromebooks and Schoology, while working with a team to envision and facilitate the building's integration of Project-Based Learning and a Fab Lab. He previously taught and co-created a middle school STEM Program at Kimpton Middle School in Stow-Munroe Falls, Ohio. Prior to that he taught math and science in various grades. His Bachelor's Degree is in middle-level education (math/science) from the University of Akron and his Master's Degree is in Instructional Technology from Kent State University.

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MULCAHY, MARGE

Marge Mulcahy is the Dublin City Schools Gifted Services Coordinator. Marge has a BA and MS from Indiana University, M Ed from Ashland University, and 30+ years working with gifted students.



PALMER, SUZANNE

Suzanne has over twenty years of professional experience in working with gifted learners, parents, administrators, and teachers. She has spent the first twelve of those years as a 5th grade gifted intervention specialist in a self-contained, full-time gifted classroom. The last ten years she has spent as an administrator serving as a gifted education coordinator. She is currently a member of the Executive Board of the Ohio Association for Gifted Children, as president-elect and serve as a member of the Ohio Department of Education Gifted Advisory Council. I have presented at both the Ohio Association for Gifted Children and National Association for Gifted Children conferences. I am an adjunct instructor for Otterbein University presenting gifted professional development for general education teachers and serve as co-director of the Martin W. Essex School for the Gifted at Otterbein.



PAYNE, JULIE

Julie Payne has been an elementary instructional coach in Worthington Schools for four years. She previously served as an intervention specialist in both Worthington, New Albany Plain-Local Schools and Mason Schools. In that role, she collaborated with colleagues to open the first Structured Communications Learning Center in Worthington Schools and was the recipient of the 2013 Gary Smith Compassionate Teaching Award. As a teacher leader and coach, Julie has facilitated numerous professional learning opportunities in literacy, math, data-driven instruction, and teacher collaboration.

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SCOTT, AMY

Amy Scott has been an elementary instructional coach in the Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools at Blacklick Elementary for the past 12 years. She previously taught K-4 grades, as well as being a gifted intervention specialist working with gr 3-5 in a pull-out program for reading & math instruction. During her 34 years as an educator, Amy has had many opportunities to be a coach and teacher leader facilitating many professional learning opportunities.



SHAKER COACHING TEAM

The Shaker Heights Instructional Coaching team is entering its sixth year in implementation. Since 2013, the program has developed a coaching model that has a variety of roles and ways that educators are supported at the district and building levels. Currently, there are five coaches that support the K-8 buildings at Shaker Heights City Schools and are members of the professional learning department for the district. Dr. Herbruck is the Director of Professional Learning for the Shaker Heights, Ohio City Schools. She has served in this role for the past 4 years and oversees all aspects of educator learning, including the instructional coaching model, teacher leadership cohorts, and instructional leadership programs. Kristin Clark is in her sixth year as an Instructional Coach for district. As an Instructional Coach, she has collaborated with teachers in a variety of ways in order to provide individualized support in the classroom and has worked with the district on creating a district wide coaching model focused on providing job embedded professional learning.

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SHAKER COACHING TEAM CONT.

Jocelyn Dietz has worked in the Shaker Heights School District for fourteen years. During her time with the district, she has served in many roles, such as reading skills specialist, classroom teacher and currently serves as a K-4 Instructional Coach. Ben Lehman is entering his second year as an instructional coach in Shaker Heights, but has held a similar role prior to joining the school district. As a classroom teacher he has held several leadership positions which include: team leader, building leadership team, data coach, RtI representative, professional learning facilitator, and instructional rounds facilitator. Jennifer Weisbarth currently is an instructional coach at Shaker Heights Middle School. She has held this or a similar role for 5 years. Prior to being an instructional coach, Jen was a middle school math teacher and an assistant principal in an upper elementary building in Shaker.



SNOWDEN, DENISE

High quality organizations, leadership and learning have been the focus of Denise Snowden's career. She has a strong desire to strengthen educational organizations that have significant challenges and enjoys building the capacity of professionals so they can effectively identify and collaboratively address gaps in systems. Student learning is always at the heart of this work. She has facilitated a range of professional learning experiences, ranging from one-on-one executive coaching to large speaking engagements. The more she seeks understanding, the more she realizes how much there is to learn!

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UHER, JOSEPH

Joseph Uher has functioned as an intervention specialist, assistant principal, principal, and director of curriculum and assessment. Joseph has also taught college level courses rooted in growth mindsets in the classroom, guided math frameworks, and project based learning.



WAGNER, DARLA

Darla Wagner has been honored to work in the field of education for over 25 years. With a focus on instructional leadership, Darla has served as an Instruction & Learning Consultant for teachers across Northeast Ohio. She co-directed The National Writing Project at Kent State University for 10 years. Currently she is a building administrator for Orange City Schools and an adjunct professor at Ursuline College. Her publications and professional presentations include: "Hooked on YA Lit: A Book Group for Teachers and Librarians", VOYA, 2009. Co-authored with CJ Bott, M. Arnold, and J. Harr; "From Artist Teacher to Citizen Teacher: Reaching the Standards through Performance Arts in the Summer Institute at Kent State University" NWP Monograph series, National Writing Project Publication. 2005. Co-authored with A. Manna and N. McCracken; "A Safe Harbor: Writing: Groups in the Middle School Classroom", English Journal, spring 2001; "A Picture's Worth a Thousand Words", OCTELA Journal, fall 1999; and NCTE Presentations (1999-2007): Writing Groups in the Middle School Classroom, Teaching Grammar in the Context of Revision, Using Literature Circles to Address Issues of Social Justice, and Beyond the Standards.

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WEAVER, LAURA

Laura A. Weaver is a Gifted Education Specialist in the Granville Exempted Village School District. She graduated from the University of Dayton with a B.S. in Middle Childhood, reading endorsement, and a Master's in Educational Leadership. Her endorsement for gifted education was obtained through Muskingum University. She currently lives in Granville, OH with her husband and two children.



WEGLEY, KELLY

Kelly Wegley is the Coordinator of Academic Achievement and Professional Development for Worthington Schools. She has 25 years of experience as a classroom teacher, instructional coach, and district administrator. She has presented at NCTE, Learning Forward, and Battelle Connect for Success, and is proud to serve as a senior consultant for Learning Forward and to be affiliated with Student Achievement Partners as an Ohio Core Instructional Advocate. She is committed to teacher empowerment, collaboration, and professional learning that is directly connected to student growth and achievement.



ZIESENHEIM, EMILY

Emily Ziesenheim is a middle school GIS with over 10 years experience working with gifted learners.