

# 2025-2026 Teacher Leader Advisors

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Congratulations to all of the Louisiana educators who have been selected as 2024–2025 Teacher Leader Advisors!

Teacher Leader Advisors play a critical role in creating tools and facilitating professional learning for fellow Louisiana educators.

Teacher Leader Advisors:

- evaluate publisher-submitted curricular materials for quality;
- update the ELA Guidebooks content and analyze texts;
- score and annotate student work samples;
- develop and facilitate professional learning sessions for fellow Louisiana educators;
- participate in focus groups related to LDOE’s academic strategy;
- review course framework documents for updated social studies standards;
- develop high-quality instructional tasks and resources for math, science, social studies, and literacy; and
- raise awareness among Louisiana educators of the tools and resources available in the Louisiana Teacher Toolbox.

For more information about Teacher Leader Advisors, please visit our [website](#) or contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov).

Maggie Acree, Ouachita\*  
Mandi Adams, Lafourche\*  
Valerie Adams, Tangipahoa  
Telisha Allen-Stark, St. James\*  
Robin Austin, Ascension\*  
Elise Barkemeyer, LSU Laboratory School  
Regena Beard, Zachary\*  
Amber Bellard, Calcasieu  
Cortney Bibby, Monroe City\*  
Michelle Blanchard, University Laboratory School\*  
Amanda Bonney, Ouachita\*  
Kellie Boquet, Lafayette  
Sandi Bourque, Ascension\*

Mayria Ledet, St. Landry  
Shannon Lee, Lincoln\*  
Katie Leopard, Northeast Claiborne\*  
Shelley Lewis, Iberia\*  
Jillian List, Vermillion\*  
Brienne Loupe, Livingston  
Heather Lynch, East Baton Rouge  
Brittani Mandigo, Caddo\*  
Danette Manuel, Calcasieu  
Gilbert Marcel, Terrebonne  
Kylie Martin, Lafourche\*  
Amanda McFarlain, Sabine\*  
Jaimie McQuarn, Ascension\*

Mia Bowles, Calcasieu\*  
 Crystal Bowling, Ouachita  
 Keyara Bowser, Calcasieu  
 Amber Brown, West Baton Rouge  
 Amy Cady, Ouachita\*  
 Heather Caldwell, InspireNola Schools  
 Jennifer Campbell, Algiers Charter Schools\*  
 Connor Cheramie, Lafourche\*  
 Kimberly Coats, East Feliciana  
 Kathleen Collins, Jefferson  
 Susan Connick, Hynes Charter School Corporation  
 Heather Crappell, St. Mary  
 Theresa Cross, Orleans\*  
 Leslie Davidson, Ascension  
 Tyler Dean, Richland  
 Ashley DeBose, GEO Academies\*  
 Bianca Deliberto, Central\*  
 Lakiesha Domingue, CSAL\*  
 Edwin Dorvin, Jefferson  
 Daren Dotson, Calcasieu\*  
 Julie Dubois, Iberia  
 Lindsay Duet, University View Academy\*  
 Stephanie Englade, St. James  
 Emily Finch, Caddo\*  
 Brooke Floris, Iberia  
 Kenneth Fontenot, Lafayette\*  
 Kaci Fontenot, Caldwell\*  
 Maree Funk, Zachary  
 Prentice Garrett-Cooper, Lafayette  
 Dale Gauthier, Lafayette\*  
 Laura Gautreaux, Jefferson Davis\*  
 Amy Gilliam, St. Mary  
 Stephen Goebel, Caddo\*  
 Christine Griffith, East Baton Rouge  
 Lanie Gueho, Ascension\*  
 Meggan Guillory, St. Landry  
 Peyton Hannan, St. Tammany  
 Renee Hardy, Calcasieu\*  
 Lauren Hatley, Lafayette  
 Lindsay Hebert, Ascension\*  
 Casey Hendricks, St. Tammany\*  
 Lainey Hodge, Ouachita  
 Christina Holland, University View Academy  
 Rebecca Holloway, East Baton Rouge\*  
 Karlitha Holmes, Iberville  
 Sarah Jimenez, Terrebonne\*  
 Dorothy Johnson, East Baton Rouge  
 Sandra “Sam” Johnson, Tangipahoa

Stacey Meehan, Jefferson  
 Samantha Mendenhall, West Baton Rouge\*  
 Dedria Mercadal, St. Tammany  
 Shannon Mitchem, Zachary  
 Dana Moore, St. Martin\*  
 Jennifer Moreland, Bossier  
 Alexandra Mossing, Hynes Charter School  
 Emily Mull, St. Tammany  
 Krystal Myrick, Rapides  
 Lisa Nance, Caddo\*  
 Kira Neal, St. Tammany  
 JaVonn Nicholas, Madison\*  
 Phuong Normand, St. Tammany  
 Danielle Pisani, CSAL  
 K. Renae Pullen, Caddo\*  
 Angelle Ransonet, St. Mary\*  
 Misty Reed, Orleans\*  
 Allie Reichert, St. Tammany  
 Marquise Reine, NOLA Public Schools  
 Amanda Reulet, West Baton Rouge\*  
 Lauren Rhodus, St. Tammany  
 Dolly Rousseau, Avoyelles  
 Paula Rowe, Caddo\*  
 Ashley Salinas, Caddo  
 Ashley Samuel, Caddo\*  
 Lauren Saulsbury, Caddo\*  
 Christine Scheller, St. Tammany\*  
 Stacey Schouest, Plaquemine  
 Erica Shepherd, Plaquemines  
 Hailey Simon, Vermilion\*  
 Rebecca Simon, Iberia  
 Hailey Smith, Franklin  
 Margaret Smith, Jefferson Davis\*  
 Tiffany Smith, St. Mary  
 Lacie Soileau, Lafayette  
 Jessica “Joy” Stalnaker, Lafayette\*  
 Addoree Stuckey, Natchitoches  
 Jill Sutton, Lincoln\*  
 Rachel Telesco, Ascension\*  
 Latasha Thomas, St. John the Baptist  
 Aunjel Thompson, Calcasieu  
 Cristi Trahan, Vermilion\*  
 Shondolyn Truman, Caddo  
 Mevlida Turkes-Habibovic, Jefferson  
 Brittany Van Norman, Calcasieu  
 Melanie Vernon, St. Paul’s Episcopal  
 Pamela Vining, Bienville  
 Karrie Ward, Jefferson

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Tammy Johnson, Lincoln  
Amanda Jones, University View Academy  
Ariane Jones-Pierre, Algiers Charter Association\*  
Melinda “Mindy” Kernahan, Ascension  
Anna King, Richland  
Loren Klein, Lafayette\*  
Nechelle Knoten, Iberville  
Cristen Larousse, Ascension

Trisha Weaver, Natchitoches\*  
Krishena Weathersby, East Baton Rouge  
Michelle Webb, Desoto\*  
Zandria Westbrooks, Iberville  
DeEtte Wick, Lincoln  
Jennifer Williams, Orleans\*  
April Winstead, Lincoln\*  
Betty Wise, Jefferson Davis\*  
Raven Woods, Lafayette  
Megan Wright, Iberville

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## **Maggie Acree**

Margaret earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Gifted Education, from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Margaret is currently the 6-12 Math Instructional Coordinator for Ouachita Parish School System. She taught all levels of math from sixth-grade through Calculus for 21 years before moving to the district level. Margaret promotes excellence in mathematics education working with colleagues throughout the school, district, state, and nation. She presents at conferences sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), the Louisiana Association for Teachers of Mathematics (LATM), and the Southern Region Education Board. She is a member of LATM and the National Council for Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). In addition, Margaret worked on LDOE Acceleration materials for math as well as the Foundational Lessons to Accelerate Math Education (FLAME) materials for grades K-5. Margaret is the 2019 Louisiana Awardee for the Presidential Award for Mathematics and Science Teaching.

## **Mandi Adams**

Mandi Adams earned a Bachelor of General Studies Degree in 2008 and then completed the Alternative Teacher Education Program, with a concentration in math and science, from Nicholls State University. Mrs. Adams has been the sixth-grade science teacher at Lockport Middle School in Lafourche Parish for fourteen years. Before that, she taught sixth- and seventh-grade math and sixth- and seventh-grade social studies at Lockport Middle School. While working as a science teacher at Lockport Middle School, Mrs. Adams was on the team that created district assessments aligned with the Louisiana State Science Standards. Mrs. Adams is currently a Teacher Leader for Lafourche Parish School District where she creates district assessments for sixth-grade science, supports the pilot of the OpenSciEd curriculum, and helps lead professional learning meetings.

## **Valerie Adams**

Valerie Adams holds a Master of Science in Management degree with an emphasis on Leadership and Organizational Development from Troy University in Alabama. Ms. Adams has been the sixth-grade science teacher at Hammond Westside Montessori for the last six years, serving as a Content Leader for five years. She serves as the You Be The Chemist and Science Olympics team sponsors on campus and is always willing to assist student athletes in need of additional help in science. She worked with the Tangipahoa Parish Title I program to implement a mobile summer school STEAM program called the Brain Food Truck which provided hands-on STEAM projects to second through fifth-grade summer school students across Tangipahoa Parish. This will be her third year working as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

## **Telisha Allen-Stark**

Telisha Allen-Stark earned a Bachelor of Science from Grambling State University and a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Grand Canyon University. Mrs. Stark is currently a Media Specialist in St. James Parish School District. Prior to that, she taught kindergarten, third-grade, fourth-grade, and fifth-grade for the last eighteen years. Mrs. Stark is currently an Apple Certified Teacher, Apple Learning Coach, Google Educator Level 1, and has presented at multiple conferences. Over the last fourteen years, Mrs. Stark has supported math curriculum implementation and supported the implementation of technology into classrooms across several districts. Mrs. Stark has served as a

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Louisiana Teacher Leader, Louisiana Mentor Teacher, and is excited to serve as Teacher Leader Advisor for another year.

### **Robin Austin**

Robin Austin earned a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in STEM instruction from Louisiana State University Shreveport. Mrs. Austin currently teaches fourth-grade math in an inclusion setting at Lakeside Primary School in Ascension Parish. She also serves as a teacher leader on her school's leadership team as a mentor teacher, a position she's held for the last two years. Prior to this, she taught fifth-grade math and science for four years at Lakeside Primary and spent one semester in East Baton Rouge Parish teaching fourth-grade science and social studies. While at Lakeside Primary, Mrs. Austin established afterschool STEM and math clubs for students in grades three through five. Mrs. Austin is a state-certified Mentor Teacher. This is her first year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Elise Barkemeyer**

Elise Barkemeyer holds an Education Specialist degree in gifted education as well as a Master of Arts in Secondary Social Studies from Louisiana State University. She is in her fourth year teaching US History Dual Enrollment and History of the Americas and World History in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program at the LSU Laboratory School. Previously, she taught for eight years in Iberville Parish. There she taught seventh-grade and eighth-grade social studies, civics, African American history, and speech. She was selected as Plaquemine High School's Teacher of the Year in 2017. While working in Iberville Parish, Ms. Barkemeyer helped write district-level benchmarks and assisted in writing parish curriculum for Louisiana History. This is her third year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Regena Beard**

Regena Beard holds a Master of Education degree in curriculum and instruction with a concentration in STEM from Louisiana State University Shreveport. She is a science and robotics/STEM teacher at Copper Mill Elementary in Zachary Community Schools where she has taught for 20 years. Mrs. Beard was the recipient of the 2022 Louisiana Outstanding Science Teacher of the Year award and the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching semi-finalist. She is a certified Mentor Teacher, serves on the Teacher Advisory Council for both Louisiana Department of Education and Zachary Community Schools, and served on the Computer Science Education Advisory Commission. This is Mrs. Beard's second year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Amber Bellard**

Amber Bellard earned a Master of Arts in Teaching plus 30 from Northwestern State University. Mrs. Bellard also has a Master of Arts in Organizational Management and has successfully taught at almost every elementary grade level. Mrs. Bellard was an Elementary Math Content Specialist for her district and is currently an ELA Content Leader. Mrs. Bellard was previously a curriculum coordinator at her school and is currently a Master Teacher where she strives to empower teachers to excel in teaching. She has helped build out several Guidebook Unit additional supports and materials in her previous work as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Cortney Bibby**

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Cortney Bibby earned an Education Specialist degree in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment from Walden University. Ms. Bibby currently teaches biology in the Monroe City School District, where she has taught science to students in grades nine through twelve for eleven years. She has also been a Mentor Teacher for four years and the Science Department Head for three years. In addition, she has served as a focal and field test teacher for OpenSciEd and a member of the Louisiana Coastal Fellowship. Ms. Bibby is currently a steering committee member for the Louisiana Environmental Education Impact Initiative.

### **Michelle Blanchard**

Michelle Blanchard earned a Master of Education plus 30 with Curriculum and Instruction certification from Nicholls State University and Louisiana State University. Mrs. Blanchard has taught in a first-grade self-contained classroom for twenty-nine years, serving Ascension Parish for twelve years and presently serving Louisiana State University Laboratory School for the past seventeen years. Mrs. Blanchard is currently a member of the Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics and has presented at yearly conventions since 2001. She was the Region VI Teacher of the Year in 2002. Mrs. Blanchard was the recipient of the Louisiana Outstanding Elementary Mathematics Teacher of the Year in 2018, the Phi Delta Kappa International Emerging Leader Award in 2010, and the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching in 2002. She served on the Louisiana State Department of Education Curriculum Writing Team in 2004, 2006, and 2008. In addition, she was a member of standards review teams for math and science in 2010 and 2014. Mrs. Blanchard has served on the reviewing committee for the Quality Science and Math Grant Program for the past ten years. She is currently a Teacher Leader for her school's Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics initiative.

### **Amanda Bonney**

Amanda Bonney holds a Master of Science with a concentration in Mathematics and a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Mathematics Education grades six to twelve from McNeese State University. For the past eight years, she has taught Algebra I, Algebra II, Math Essentials, Advanced Math, Pre-Calculus, Statistics, Cyber Literacy, and Physics at West Ouachita High School in Ouachita Parish. Mrs. Bonney has taught mathematics in Louisiana for seventeen years, served as a Math and Science Instructional Coach, served as department head, served as the President of High Schools of the SWLTM, and currently is a Mentor Teacher. At the district level, she has helped lead in-services, served on the textbook adoption committee, and helped write district high school math assessments and curriculum guides. In 2013, Mrs. Bonney was the Region V High School Teacher of the Year and State Finalist. In 2024, Mrs. Bonney was the West Ouachita High School teacher of the year. This is Mrs. Bonney's third year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Kellie Boquet**

Kellie Boquet earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health, Physical and Biology Education from Nicholls State University. She has twenty-nine years of teaching experience and is a certified Mentor Teacher. She has taught in Terrebonne and Lafayette Parishes and is currently serving as the Vice President of the Louisiana Science Teachers Association. She has presented at many conferences and participated in many state level committees. Kellie retired from the public school system last June and now teaches at Acadiana Renaissance Charter Academy in Youngsville, Louisiana.

### **Sandi Bourque**

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Sandi Bourque earned her Master Degree in Educational Leadership and is currently writing her dissertation to complete her doctorate of Educational Leadership. Ms. Bourque is a third-grade mentor teacher at Lakeside Primary in Ascension. Last year, she was the 2024 Teacher of the Year at her school. She is also the Beta Club Sponsor. Ms. Bourque is currently a member of the National Council for Teachers of English. She is currently part of the Dyslexia Cohort with the Louisiana Department of Education. Ms. Bourque has been a teacher leader at her school for two years and has recently completed the new LEADs training with the Louisiana Department of Education. Over the summer, Ms. Bourque helped to create and write the new Louisiana Computer Science Standards. Ms. Bourque understands the importance of Computer Science in the classroom as an asset to prepare students for the technology driven world that we live in today.

### **Mia Bowles**

Mia Bowles holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Psychology from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Mrs. Bowles has taught for ten years. She has spent the last seven teaching fifth-grade English language arts at E.K. Key Elementary in Calcasieu Parish. In addition to her teaching role, she has taken on several leadership and mentoring positions. She has been a certified Mentor Teacher for new teachers in Calcasieu Parish for four years and is the lead mentor teacher at her school site. She is a member of her school's leadership team and has been a Digital Citizenship Ambassador for Calcasieu Parish School Board since 2021. She was chosen to be E.K. Key's Teacher of the Year in 2024. She is excited to take on the role of Teacher Leader Advisor for a second year.

### **Crystal Bowling**

Crystal Bowling earned a Master of Education from Louisiana Tech University and is certified in Elementary Education. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from the same institution. With eighteen years of teaching experience in Ouachita Parish, Mrs. Bowling has spent seventeen of those years teaching fourth-grade Math and Science. She is a certified Math Content Leader and has served as both her school's Math Professional Learning Community Leader and presenter. Additionally, Mrs. Bowling is a certified mentor through the Louisiana Department of Education and the University of Louisiana at Monroe. She has also contributed to the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program 2025 by serving on the Math Alignment and Content Bias Committees.

### **Keyara Bowser**

Keyara Bowser earned a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a reading specialist certification from Grambling State University. Ms. Bowser has been a teacher of fourth-grade math and science this past school year. Prior to that, she taught in a second-grade classroom for three years and first-grade classroom for one year. Ms. Bowser is trained and certified in the Science of Reading. She has also been the Robotics Club co-sponsor for the past two years.

### **Amber Brown**

Amber Brown holds a Master of Education from Louisiana State University. Currently, Mrs. Brown teaches sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade social studies at Caneview K-8 in the West Baton Rouge Parish School System, a position she has held for the past nine years. Prior to that, Mrs. Brown taught seventh-grade social studies for eight years and fourth-grade for one year. Mrs. Brown is currently the Vice President of the Louisiana Council for the Social Studies and was the Secretary from 2019-2021. She has also serves as a Louisiana Representative in the National Council for the Social Studies House of Delegates and is on

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its Resolutions Committee. Mrs. Brown has presented at the Louisiana Computer Using Educators Conference, the Louisiana Council for Social Studies, the National Council for Social Studies, and the International Society for Technology in Education annual conference. Additionally, she has served on the LEAP 2025 Social Studies Content and Bias Item Review and Social Studies Source Review Committees. This is Mrs. Brown's third year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

## **Amy Cady**

Amy Cady holds a Master of Education plus 30 with a specialization in Curriculum and Instruction, obtained from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. With eight years of teaching experience across various subject areas, including chemistry and introductory STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), Ms. Cady has demonstrated versatility and expertise in education. Previously, she served as a district STEM teacher for West Carroll Parish and fulfilled the role of school technology coordinator for several years. Ms. Cady played a pivotal role in the development, implementation, and enhancement of a STEM-enriched cyber summer program, enabling students to attain a lifetime certification in Information Technology Fundamentals. Currently, she actively contributes to the MAGNAtch robotics team and has delivered presentations at two conferences. Ms. Cady's contributions extend beyond the classroom as she participated in a committee tasked with developing the STEM Praxis certification exam. Collaborating with esteemed colleagues nationwide, she contributed to the refinement of this vital examination. Furthermore, Ms. Cady has served as a state Teacher Leader Advisor for the past two years, exemplifying her commitment to educational leadership and innovation.

## **Heather Caldwell**

Heather Caldwell brings over a decade of teaching experience across elementary, middle, and high school settings. She has worked in diverse educational environments, including schools with large populations of English language learners. At the elementary level, she has taught science and social studies, while at the high school level, her subjects have included Louisiana History, U.S. History, World Geography, and Civics. She currently teaches tenth and twelfth grade social studies. Throughout her career, she has served as a grade-level lead and mentor teacher. She also serves as the eighth grade table leader for the Social Studies Standard Setting and Vertical Articulation Committee as well as participates in the Civics Standard Setting process. Ms. Caldwell holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of New Orleans and earned her alternative teaching certification from Southern University at New Orleans.

## **Jennifer Campbell**

Jennifer Campbell earned a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of New Orleans along with an Education Leader Level I add-on from the University of Holy Cross. Mrs. Campbell has been an educator for twenty-six years and has taught English, math, and social studies in grades second through sixth. Currently, she is the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for Algiers Charter Schools Association located in New Orleans. Prior to that, Mrs. Campbell worked for the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching as a Senior Program Specialist providing implementation support to district and school-level leaders across Louisiana. While working in Jefferson Parish as Elementary Coordinator of Mathematics, Mrs. Campbell coached and supported teachers with implementation of Louisiana Student Standards, facilitated various district-level professional learning opportunities for kindergarten through fifth-grade teachers, and designed rigorous benchmark assessments, all focusing on increased student achievement. This is her fifth year serving as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

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## Connor Cheramie

Connor Cheramie holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education with a concentration in Social Studies Education from Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana. For two years, Mr. Cheramie has been the eighth-grade social studies teacher at Bayou Blue Middle School in Lafourche Parish School District. Prior to this position, he completed his teaching residency at Bayou Community Academy Charter School in Lafourche and served as a school technology coordinator at a local elementary school. In Lafourche Parish, Mr. Cheramie serves on the eighth-grade social studies curriculum planning committee, assisting in creating district curriculum, instructional materials, and assessments. As a member of the district's Instructional Technology Educator Team, he works to support teachers in their effective use of instructional technology in the classroom. He was named the Teacher of the Year at his school in 2023, serves various co-curricular programs at the school, and is a state-certified Mentor Teacher. Mr. Cheramie believes in the significant role education can play in shaping our communities and society, as well as the quality of education Louisiana can provide for its students with the right resources in place. He desires to see Louisiana continue to make progress toward student success and is grateful for the opportunity to serve as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

## Kimberly Coats

Kimberly Coats holds a Master of Education in Special Education with a Reading Specialist Certification from Louisiana State University. Mrs. Coats has been the fourth- through eighth-grade Literacy Coach in East Feliciana for the past year. Before that, she taught in a kindergarten through sixth-grade special education resource classroom for eight years at Jackson Elementary School in East Feliciana Parish. Mrs. Coats was also an NIET TAP Mentor Teacher at Jackson Elementary School for three years, where she served on the school's leadership team and mentored other Special Education Teachers. Mrs. Coats also received the Mentor Teacher Ancillary Certificate in 2020.

## Kathleen Collins

Kathleen Collins holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Holy Cross University. Ms. Collins is a Master Teacher for Jefferson Parish Schools. In this role, she focuses on continual teacher development to drive student achievement in her school. Prior to being a Master Teacher, she served as a Literacy Coach. In this role, she supported and led teachers in grades kindergarten through fifth, as well as members of her school's Instruction Leadership Team, in implementing the Science of Reading principles in daily classroom instruction. She began her education career teaching in a self-contained second-grade classroom for eight and a half years. Ms. Collins has been an English Language Arts and Literacy Content Leader Fellow for Jefferson Parish Schools for five years. She earned her Louisiana Mentor Teacher Certification in 2021 and Louisiana Literacy Content Leader Certification in 2022. With these roles, Ms. Collins leads professional learning related to English language arts and literacy, mentors new and veteran teachers, and helps create and vet district level assessments.

## Susan Connick

With nearly twenty years of experience in education, Susan Connick brings a unique perspective to her work. Initially, she built a career as an architect before transitioning to the classroom. After earning her early childhood certification, she spent several years teaching Pre-K 4, where she developed a passion for foundational literacy. This interest led her to become a reading specialist and pursue a graduate degree in

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Leadership, Curriculum, and Instruction. Susan has also served as an Early Childhood Director and has presented on early childhood topics at both local and national conferences. Currently, she works as the Solutions Facilitator at Hynes Charter School in New Orleans, where she fulfills multiple roles, including Instructional Coach, 504 Coordinator, and co-chair of the Student Assistance Team, all aimed at supporting student growth and success. She was selected to participate in the second cohort of the LDOE Dyslexia Practitioner program and hopes to complete her practicum next spring. Additionally, Susan serves as the Vice President of The Reading League, where she advocates for evidence-based reading instruction and strives to ensure that all children become proficient readers.

## **Heather Crappell**

Heather Crappell holds a Bachelor degree in Elementary Education from Nicholls State University and has accumulated 21 years of experience as an elementary school teacher in St. Mary Parish. Throughout her career, she has taught grades first through fifth, with a focus on fourth-grade mathematics at Bayou Vista Elementary for the past 12 years. In 2019, Mrs. Crappell obtained certification as a Mentor Teacher and has since provided mentor training to new teachers in St. Mary Parish, specifically in mathematics. She has also played an active role in school leadership as a member of the Leadership Team, Junior Beta Club Sponsor for 17 years, and LEAP school tutor for mathematics. At the district level, she has led professional learning for teachers in grades third through fifth, analyzed teacher resources and interventions, as well as assisted in the development of mathematics pacing guides. Currently, Mrs. Crappell is participating in the Ignite Training Program, focusing on Computer Science and Technology. This school year will mark her first as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

## **Theresa Cross**

Theresa Cross earned a Master of Business Administration from Baldwin-Wallace University. Mrs. Cross currently serves as the Academic Dean and Algebra I teacher at Alice Harte Charter School in New Orleans. She has seventeen years of experience teaching middle school and high school math and has served in various educational roles including Academy Principal. She has assisted educators on the district level by creating benchmark assessments, pacing guides, and supplemental curriculum materials as well as presenting at professional learning sessions. For twelve years, she has been a certified teacher evaluator by the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching. She has completed the Elementary Math Content Leader training and participated in the LEAP 2025 Algebra I Range-Finding committee. In 2017, she received the Milken Educator Award and is part of a national network of distinguished educators. Mrs. Cross has been a Teacher Leader on her campus for twelve years and she is excited to be a state Teacher Leader Advisor for the 2024-2025 school year.

## **Leslie Davidson**

Leslie Davidson earned a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from Southeastern Louisiana University and holds a bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University. Ms. Davidson currently teaches third-grade at Bullion Primary School in Ascension Parish. She is a certified mentor teacher authorized by a leadership certification for the state of Louisiana and an NIET certified evaluator. Additionally, she is certified to teach at both the primary and middle school levels. She has served Ascension Public Schools in many different capacities including writing district benchmark assessments, district benchmark analysis, and serving on both leadership and observation teams. She has served as a mentor teacher, supporting other teachers in grades PK-fifth and to aspiring teachers from both in-state and out-of-state universities. Additionally, she has taken part in math competency focus groups for the State of Louisiana

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and she has also worked as an associate fellow for a national curriculum company, assisting other school districts in implementing high-quality curricula.

### **Tyler Dean**

Tyler Dean has earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Louisiana College, a Master of Arts in Apologetics, and a Master of Theology from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He is currently working on his Ph.D. Mr. Dean has sixteen years of teaching experience in which he has taught Biology I, Biology II, Physical Science, Chemistry, Anatomy and Physiology, and Environmental Science. In 2010, Mr. Dean served on the Louisiana Life Science Textbook Adoption Committee. He is currently a Science Content Leader for Richland Parish. Mr. Dean has served as a Teacher Leader Advisor for the state of Louisiana since 2019.

### **Ashley DeBose**

Ms. DeBose earned a Bachelor degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Louisiana State University. She is a certified teacher with eleven years of experience teaching math and science at the elementary level. Currently, Ms. DeBose serves as a fifth-grade math teacher and is also a Mentor Teacher for GEO Prep Academy of Greater Baton Rouge. She has been a dedicated Teacher Leader at her school for six years. She is certified in Teacher Evaluation by the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching. Ms. DeBose is also a member of the Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics. She has been a Teacher Leader Advisor for two years.

### **Bianca Deliberto**

Bianca Deliberto earned primary and secondary education degrees, including a Ph.D. in Science Education, from Louisiana State University. Dr. Deliberto is currently the K-12 Science Instructional Coach in the Central Community School System. She has a mix of classroom teaching experiences throughout her eighteen years in education, including grades second, third, fourth, seventh, and eighth. Dr. Deliberto is the President of the Louisiana Science Teachers Association, has received National Board Re-Certification, and is part of the LDOE Classroom Assessment Community of Practice Cohort. In addition to this, she has served on several local, state, and national committees as well as presented at numerous workshops and conferences. This will be Dr. Deliberto's twelfth year as a Teacher Leader Advisor with the Louisiana Department of Education.

### **Lakiesha Domingue**

Lakiesha Domingue is an experienced educator with over twelve years of teaching elementary students and two years of experience as a science curriculum facilitator. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Applied Sciences, an MBA, and is a doctoral candidate pursuing an EdD in Educational Leadership. Her expertise includes designing engaging, standards-aligned science lessons, training educators on curriculum integration, and using innovative tools to enhance student learning. Lakiesha is passionate about professional learning and empowering fellow educators to implement effective teaching strategies and is committed to making a broader impact in the field of education.

### **Edwin Dorvin**

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Mr. Dorvin earned his Master of Arts in Teaching and holds a Post-Master Certificate in Educational Leadership from the University of New Orleans. Mr. Dorvin currently works as an Assistant Principal at Bridgedale Elementary in Jefferson Parish. Prior to that, he taught Special Education, Physical Education to pre-K through eighth-graders, and math and science to upper elementary students at Rudolph Matas Elementary School. Mr. Dorvin has been a Teacher Leader Fellow for Jefferson Parish Schools for five years and a Content Leader Fellow in Mathematics for one year. He earned his Louisiana Mentor Teacher Certification in 2021 and Louisiana Content Leader Certification in 2023. This will be his third year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

## **Julie DuBois**

Julie DuBois earned a Master of Education and a Master of Biology from Louisiana Tech University. Ms. DuBois has been a high school science teacher for twenty-two years, with nineteen of those years in Iberia Parish at Delcambre High School. Ms. DuBois has helped write science district assessments for biology, physics, and chemistry as well as present district-level science curriculum trainings. For the past nine years, she has been on the district-level biology curriculum writing team. Ms. DuBois has been a state Teacher Leader Advisor for the past eight years.

## **Stephanie Englade**

Stephanie Englade earned her bachelors degree and certification in Middle School Education from the University of New Orleans. She is currently studying for her Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and Reading Specialist certification, at the University of New Orleans. Ms. Englade has taught 7th grade science for the past eleven years in St. James parish, in addition to teaching 8th grade science for three of those years. Prior to that, she taught 7th grade science in Jefferson parish for six years and 8th grade science for one year. She has assisted in writing district assessments and aligning the current curriculum to the Louisiana State Standards for St. James parish. Ms. Englade has also served on LEAP 2025 committees for both rangefinding and stimulus review.

## **Emily Finch**

Ms. Finch holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education: Social Studies with a Computer Literacy Add-on in 2019 and a Master of Education: Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Technology in 2023, both from the Louisiana State University in Shreveport, Louisiana. Ms. Finch is in her fifth year of teaching social studies and currently teaches sixth- and seventh-grade at Youree Drive Middle AP Magnet School in Caddo Parish. Last year, Ms. Finch was named Louisiana State Middle School Teacher of the Year by the Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators in 2023, of which she is a member and a presenter, and is known to collaborate closely with the Caddo Technology Team. During her five years of teaching, Ms. Finch has also enthusiastically served as a member of the Caddo Parish Social Studies Content Specialist Task Force where she has gained experience in professional learning creation, guidebook creation, and content development.

## **Brooke Floris**

Brooke Floris earned a Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction from Western Governors University in the spring of 2020. Ms. Floris is an educator in Iberia Parish at Park Elementary. Currently, she is a sixth-grade teacher and serves on the school's leadership team as a Mentor Teacher. Prior to that, she was a master teacher for one year, a fourth-grade teacher for six years, and a math interventionist for one year. For the last four years, Ms. Floris has assisted educators on the district level: helping create

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district assessments, developing pacing guides, as well as presenting at numerous curriculum professional learning sessions. This is her second year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Kenneth Fontenot**

Kenneth Fontenot earned a Bachelor of the Arts degree in Education with a concentration on sixth-through twelfth-grade Social Studies from the University of Louisiana. Mr. Fontenot is in his third year of teaching seventh-grade United States History at Milton Elementary and Middle School. Prior to that, he taught Civics, Geography, World History, and World Geography at New Iberia Senior High School for twelve years. Mr. Fontenot is currently assisting Lafayette Parish School District with creating lessons that are based on the new Social Studies curriculum. He presented the new curriculum to the seventh-grade teachers of Lafayette Parish during a Social Studies workshop during the summer of 2023. He has also spent time proofreading and editing Lafayette Parish's seventh-grade common assessments. Mr. Fontenot has recently attended conferences presented by the Institute for Louisiana Culture and History and the Louisiana Council for Social Studies.

### **Kaci Fontenot**

Kaci Fontenot is a highly experienced and dedicated educator with over 17 years of experience in teaching. She earned a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction in STEM from Louisiana State University in Shreveport. Mrs. Fontenot has taught sixth- and seventh-grade math and robotics at Caldwell Parish Junior High in Caldwell Parish for the past two years. Prior to this, Mrs. Fontenot spent fifteen years teaching grades first through fifth in Ascension Parish. She also served as the Director of a summer STEM camp for five years, catering to students in grades kindergarten through fifth. Mrs. Fontenot is a passionate advocate for STEM education, and she serves as the math and science department head in her school. She is also a member of the Superintendent Advisory Council for her district and currently serves as her district's IGNITE Ambassador, working to bring computer science into the kindergarten through fifth-grade classrooms. Mrs. Fontenot has been recognized for her outstanding contributions to education and was selected to serve as a state Teacher Leader Advisor for two consecutive years.

### **Maree Funk**

Maree Funk earned a Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Scranton. Ms. Funk has been a teacher at Zachary High School for twelve years and is the Science Department Leader and a state-certified Mentor Teacher. Ms. Funk is currently a member of the American Association of Chemistry Teachers which has published her lessons as resources for other members of the organization. Two years ago, she participated in the multi-state standard-setting study for the updated Praxis Chemistry test. She is currently serving on her district's Teacher Advisory Panel and part of her school's Instructional Leadership Team.

### **Prentice Garrett-Cooper**

Prentice Garrett-Cooper went to Southern University A & M College, where she majored in Biology with a concentration in Microbial Studies. Prentice became a licensed teacher through Teach Baton Rouge and The New Teacher Project. Prentice continued her journey in higher education and went on to receive her Master of Education in Educational Psychology specializing in Gifted and Creative Education from the University of Georgia in 2022. She is now working towards a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Prentice's repertoire of subjects taught includes

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fifth to eighth-grade science, tenth-grade biology, and advanced placement biology. She spent the last three and half years as a science teacher and now works within the SPED Department for Lafayette Parish.

### **Dale Gauthier**

Mr. Dale Gauthier earned a Master of Education Technology from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. Mr. Gauthier has been a mathematics and computer science teacher at Lafayette High School for twenty-two years. Prior to that, he taught mathematics at Bunkie High School for five years. Mr. Gauthier is currently a member of the Computer Science Teachers Association, Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators, Louisiana and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and the Lafayette, Louisiana, and National Association of Educators. He has undergone several training courses including the National GEAR-UP leadership conference, the Texas Instruments National Leadership Instructor Program, the Computer Science Teacher Association Gulf Coast Inclusive Computer Science Teaching Course in Equity and Equality, and is an Edgenuity teacher and online coach. Mr. Gauthier has also been the president and webmaster of the Louisiana Mu Alpha Theta state board for the last fifteen years. He has been a presenter for the GEAR-UP University of Louisiana Lafayette and Lafayette Parish School System Programs and has trained teachers in VR and STEM in the Classroom. Mr. Gauthier is also the current sponsor of the Lafayette High School Computer Science Honors Society.

### **Laura Gautreaux**

Laura Gautreaux earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and her teacher credentials from iTeach. Mrs. Gautreaux is currently teaching fifth-grade science & social studies at Lake Arthur Elementary in Jefferson Davis Parish. Prior to that, Ms. Gautreaux taught third-grade science and social studies for four years in Jefferson Davis Parish and Acadia Parish, fourth-grade science and social studies for one year in Acadia Parish, and fifth-grade math for one year. Mrs. Gautreaux has been a teacher leader for fifth-grade social studies in Jefferson Davis Parish for the past three years. Her role as a teacher leader is to assist with writing assessments and planning lessons using Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies and resources. Mrs. Gautreaux is a current member of Tech II Superhero for Jefferson Davis Parish School Board to equip teachers with the latest technology applications to enhance classroom instruction.

### **Amy Gilliam**

Amy Gilliam earned a Master of Science in Forestry from Southern University and A & M College and also holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She is currently pursuing a Master of Education in Educational Leadership at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette through a cohort program with the St. Mary Parish School Board and expects to graduate in July 2025. Ms. Gilliam has served as a middle school science teacher at Franklin Junior High School in St. Mary Parish for nine years. She has held several leadership roles including: Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Team Leader, Title I Liaison, Science Content Lead Teacher, Mentor Teacher, and Online Instructor. Ms. Gilliam was named Franklin Junior High School's Teacher of the Year for the 2018–2019 and 2023–2024 school years. She was also selected as the St. Mary Parish Teacher of the Year for 2023–2024. Ms. Gilliam has served on local curriculum and school improvement committees. This is her first year serving as a state Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Stephen Goebel**

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Stephen Goebel earned a Bachelor of Science in Physics from Rice University followed by a Master of Arts in Teaching in Secondary Education from Centenary College of Louisiana. Mr. Goebel has been a high school teacher in Caddo Parish for fourteen years. For the past ten years, he has taught computer science classes including Computer Science Essentials, Cybersecurity, Robotics, Mobile App Development, and courses for college credit. Previously, he taught Physics and Mathematics courses for college credit. Mr. Goebel is a member of the Louisiana chapter of the Computer Science Teachers Association and currently serves as chapter vice president. Mr. Goebel worked on a committee to help develop his district's scope and sequence for Physics after the most recent standards revision, and he served on the Louisiana Computer Science Standards Writing Committee. This will be his first year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Christine Griffith**

Christine Griffith earned a Master of Arts in Teaching and an Education Specialist Degree in Academically Gifted Education from Louisiana State University. She is currently a first grade English Language Arts teacher at a dual language immersion school in East Baton Rouge Parish. As a Certified Academic Language Therapist, she completed her certification through the Dyslexia Resource Center. During her career in education, she has spent thirteen years teaching first and second grade students in general education, self-contained gifted classrooms as well as special education students with dyslexia. Her expertise spans literacy instruction, differentiated learning, and early intervention. This year she participated in the English Language Arts Standards Review Work Group for the state, and it is her first year as a state Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Lanie Gueho**

Lanie Gueho earned a Master of Education degree with a concentration in STEM from Louisiana State University Shreveport. Mrs. Gueho has been an educator in Ascension Parish for eighteen years. Currently, she is serving as the STEAM teacher at Prairieville Primary, working daily with students from kindergarten through fifth grade. Prior to this position, Mrs. Gueho taught third- and fourth-grade for a combination of twelve years. In addition to her time in the classroom, Mrs. Gueho served as an Instructional Coach in her district for two years and was a member of the science item review committee for the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program. For the past year, Mrs. Gueho has worked as a Teacher Leader Advisor for the Louisiana Department of Education.

### **Meggan Guillory**

Meggan Guillory is an experienced educator with a passion for science education. She earned a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, specializing in science education, from the University of Texas at Arlington. She also holds a B.S. in Biology from Xavier University of Louisiana. Mrs. Guillory has taught at the middle and high school level for eleven years in St. Landry Parish. Additionally, Mrs. Guillory has extended her impact beyond her school by working with teachers in surrounding parishes to review and improve middle school curriculum. She was an active member of the science curriculum review team for St. Landry Parish, collaborating with fellow educators to enhance the quality of science instruction in the district. She has served as a Teacher Leader Advisor for the past five years.

### **Peyton Hannan**

Peyton Hannan holds a Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction in Accomplished Teaching from Columbus State University and is also a certified ELA content leader. For the past three years, she has provided fourth-grade English language arts and social studies instruction to elementary

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students, as well as gifted English language arts instruction to students in grades one through six. Prior to this, for five years, she instructed fourth- and fifth-grade gifted students, as well as co-taught English language arts and science in inclusion classrooms. During the most recent school year, Mrs. Hannan served as the literacy and Students with Exceptionalities ELA instructor for the Teach St. Tammany alternative certification program. This is her second year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Renee Hardy**

Renee Hardy has been an educator for twelve years. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2012. She worked as a fifth-grade teacher at J.I. Watson Elementary in Calcasieu Parish from 2013-2022 teaching math, science, and social studies the majority of the time. She helped write science content for CPSB Elementary teachers through a committee of teachers. During the 2020-2021 school year, Renee was a connected classroom virtual teacher for Calcasieu Parish Schools. From 2022-2024, Renee relocated to teach middle school science at Iowa High School in Calcasieu Parish and received her certifications in Middle School Science and Social Studies. Renee is currently teaching High School Computer Coding as a Foreign Language I as well as middle school robotics at Iowa High School. She is also working on her computer science certification as well as her Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction in Educational Technology Leadership through LSUS and will complete her degree in the spring of 2025. Renee is also a STEM Coach for Iowa High/Middle school VEX Robotics teams as well as the Color Guard Unit Director for the Iowa Jacket Bands.

### **Lauren Hatley**

Lauren Hatley has earned a Master of Education in Special Education: Gifted Education from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Ms. Hatley also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education. She is a Level II Louisiana licensed educator and has an add-on certification in academically gifted. Ms. Hatley holds a teaching license for the State of Wyoming in early childhood education, from birth through eight years old. Ms. Hatley is currently a first-grade Gifted and Talented educator at Middlebrook Elementary School in the Lafayette Parish School System. Additionally, Ms. Hatley is the vice president of membership for the Association for Gifted and Talented Students of Louisiana and a member of the National Educational Association. This is Ms. Hatley's sixth year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Lindsay Hebert**

Lindsay Hebert earned a Master of Arts in Teaching with a concentration in Special Education-Early Intervention from Southeastern Louisiana University. Mrs. Hebert has been an early interventionist in Ascension Public Schools for ten years. She currently teaches a reverse inclusion pre-kindergarten class at Lakeside Primary. Mrs. Hebert served on the Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) review committee. In addition to teaching, she has obtained mentor teacher certification through the Louisiana Department of Education. This will be her fourth year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Casey Hendricks**

Dr. Casey Hendricks earned a Doctorate of Education with a concentration in leadership, a Master of Education in Educational Leadership, and a Bachelor of the Arts in Anthropology all from Northwestern State University. Dr. Hendricks currently serves as the Secondary Social Studies Curriculum Specialist for grades sixth through twelfth in St. Tammany Parish. Over the past year, he has helped the Louisiana

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Department of Education review assessment items and sources for the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program. Additionally, Dr. Hendricks has worked with the LDOE to develop the 2023-2024 Social Studies Instructional Frameworks for grades four and five. Currently, he is developing Document Based Questions for the new Civics Frameworks. Prior to coming to St. Tammany Parish, he was a social studies teacher in both Sabine and Natchitoches Parishes. In his nineteen years as a teacher, he taught social studies from grades fifth through eighth and high school civics, U.S. History, and World History. Dr. Hendricks is currently a state Teacher Leader Advisor for social studies.

### **Lainey Hodge**

Lainey Hodge earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology Education with an additional certification in sixth through twelfth-grade mathematics from Louisiana Tech University. She has also earned her Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in STEM education from Louisiana State University in Shreveport. She has also obtained a certification in Educational Leadership and ancillary certifications as a Content Leader and Mentor Teacher. Mrs. Hodge is in her fifteenth year as a classroom teacher and is a 2021 and 2023 Louisiana State Finalist in Mathematics for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) and the Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics (LATM) 2023 Outstanding High School Teacher. This is her fifth year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Christina Holland**

Christina Holland earned her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and her Master's degree in Literacy from the University of Florida. Since then, she has enjoyed serving families and helping students reach success in her teaching career for the last nineteen years. She currently teaches third-grade English Language Arts at University View Academy and has for the last ten years. She also taught in an inclusion classroom for six years in first grade and three years in second grade. Throughout her career, Mrs. Holland has supported her school-level professional learning community, mentored new teachers, served as the grade-level team lead for six years, and ELA lead for her third-grade team as well. Additionally, Mrs. Holland has led and participated in many school and community learning experiences and partnership programs throughout the years. Finally, Mrs. Holland has served as a Teacher Leader Advisor for the last three years, including being the Team Leader for her work group, and was on the Assessment Committee for the LDOE last year.

### **Rebecca Holloway**

Rebecca Holloway holds an Education Specialist Certification in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialization in science from Louisiana State University and earned a Master of Education plus 30 from Southern University. Ms. Holloway currently serves as an Introduction to STEM Pathways and Careers, sixth- and seventh-grade Science and Engineering Design teacher at Park Forest Middle Magnet School. She currently serves in multiple leadership roles including Grade Level Coordinator, PBIS Coordinator, East Baton Rouge Parish Mentor Teacher, and Teacher Leader. Ms. Holloway cherished her pilotage roles as a Louisiana Coastal Fellow in 2021-2022, East Baton Rouge STEM Fellow, Environmental Education Advisor, and Teacher of the Year. In the Core and Supplemental Instructional Review Committee, she assisted in developing the district science curriculum and writing assessments for middle school for two years. Ms. Holloway was a member of the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program Content and Bias Review. She has served as a Teacher Leader Advisor for the Louisiana Department of Education. Ms.

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Holloway is currently a member of the Louisiana Science Teachers Association. She has presented workshops on the national, state, and local level.

### **Karlitha Holmes**

Karlitha Holmes earned a Master of Education plus 30 from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Ms. Holmes earned her certification in special education from the Louisiana Resource Center for Educators (LRCE). Ms. Holmes is the eighth-grade middle school special education inclusion teacher at Plaquemine Senior High School in Iberville Parish. Prior to that, she taught between grades fourth through eighth general education for twenty-seven years. She is a third-year Teacher Leader Advisor. She is a member of the Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics. For several years, she helped write the math district curriculum and assessments for grades first through sixth. Throughout her twenty-eight years of experience, Ms. Holmes has served as a Student Assistant Team Chairperson (SAT), Instructional Facilitator, Cluster Facilitator, Teacher Leader, Mentor Teacher, District Curriculum Developer, School and District Professional Development Presenter, and participated and collaborated in numerous district and regional math and science strategy and curriculum development projects.

### **Sarah Jimenez**

Sarah Jimenez has been a science and STEM teacher in Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes for the past nine years. She has extensive curriculum experience in middle school and high school physical science and chemistry. She was the 2022-2023 Central Lafourche High School Teacher of the Year and the 2023-2024 Nicholls Teacher of Excellence for Chemistry and Physical Science. Ms. "J", as her students know her, is currently a member of the Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics. She is also a member of the American Association of Chemistry Teachers. For six years, Ms. Jimenez helped write science district and school assessments for grades seven through eleven. She was also on the physical science and chemistry curriculum writing team in Lafourche Parish in 2022-2023.

### **Dorothy Johnson**

Mrs. Dorothy Johnson holds a Master of Arts degree in Curriculum and Instruction. She currently serves as an interventionist at East Baton Rouge Parish Virtual Academy in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System, where she has worked for several years. Mrs. Johnson is certified to teach all subjects in first through fifth grades and has seventeen years of experience as a certified classroom teacher.

### **Sandra "Sam" Johnson**

Sam Johnson has dedicated over two decades to advancing literacy in the Tangipahoa Parish School System as the District Literacy Specialist. Her extensive career also includes teaching at both university and school levels in Texas and Louisiana. Sam holds a Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Texas at El Paso. As the District Literacy Specialist, she has contributed to local and state projects such as standards assessment alignment, assessment development and reviews for state assessments and ELA Guidebooks. Currently, Sam continues to share her expertise to the Louisiana Department of Education, serving on the steering committee for the ELA standards review.

### **Tammy Johnson**

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Tammy Johnson holds a Master of Education in Reading and Educational Leadership. Ms. Johnson has eighteen years of instructional experience and will be returning to the classroom as a first-grade teacher for the sixth year. Prior to that, she was a reading interventionist for five years and taught third-grade ELA, math, science, and social studies for nine years. Ms. Johnson is a certified Reading Specialist and just recently completed training and been certified in the Science of Reading. Ms. Johnson has served on numerous committees for her school and at the district level. In addition, Ms. Johnson has been a Mentor Teacher for her district. Ms. Johnson has led several professional developments throughout her instructional career for both teachers and parents. She is a member of the National Council and the International Literacy Association where she completed proposal reviews for the October 2019 conference. This is her fourth year as a Teacher Leader for her current district and her fourth year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Amanda Jones**

Amanda Jones holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics from Nicholls State University. She has earned a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction in Mathematics from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. She also holds 30 graduate hours in mathematics from the University of Louisiana Lafayette. Ms. Jones currently teaches at University View Academy where she has been teaching virtually for eight years. She currently teaches high school math. Ms. Jones worked on the curriculum team at her school that adapted the curriculum to be appropriate for online learning. She also taught in brick-and-mortar schools for three years before switching to online learning. She currently serves on Dr. Brumley's Teacher Advisory Council.

### **Ariane Jones-Pierre**

Ariane Jones-Pierre earned a Master of Educational Leadership from the University of Holy Cross. Ms. Jones-Pierre has been a Master Teacher at Algiers Charter Association for four years. Prior to that, Ms. Jones-Pierre served as a third- through eighth-grade Math Mentor Teacher for five years. Ms. Jones-Pierre has also taught math and supported K-12 math teachers through different programs in the city of New Orleans.

### **Melinda “Mindy” Kernahan**

Melinda "Mindy" Kernahan earned a Master of Education in Special Education with a focus on Gifted Curriculum and Instruction from Southeastern Louisiana University. Mrs. Kernahan is currently in her fourth year as a Talented and Gifted Teacher for primary and middle school students at multiple schools in Ascension Parish. With eleven years of experience as a classroom teacher, Mrs. Kernahan taught in the academically gifted setting in both St. Tammany Parish and El Paso, Texas at the elementary level. During her time in St. Tammany Parish, she served in multiple leadership roles to develop a curriculum aligned to gifted learners' needs in multiple subject areas as well as participated as a member of multiple schools' leadership teams. Additionally, Mrs. Kernahan implemented a service learning project with fourth-grade gifted students in science through the Joe W. and Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation in collaboration with Lake Pontchartrain Conservancy and Mandeville Public Water Works. Mrs. Kernahan participated as a member of the Believe and Prepare Science Collaborative for the 2022-2023 school year, was a Coastal Fellow for the 2021-2022 school year, and is currently a member of the Louisiana Science Teachers Association, and the National Marine Educators Association. Mrs. Kernahan has presented alongside Louisiana Sea Grant at the 2024 National Marine Educators Association Conference to share her experiences as an educator participating in the Layers of Louisiana Professional Development.

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## **Anna King**

Anna W. King has a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, specializing in elementary education from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Mrs. King is also pursuing her Ed. Leadership alternate certification and her plus 30. Having spent over a decade teaching middle school science, Mrs. King transitioned to the role of Lead Instructional Coach at Start Elementary in Richland Parish in 2021. She has been instrumental in creating the district middle school science syllabi, a valuable resource guiding fellow educators in their lesson planning. Beyond her classroom roles, Mrs. King has actively supported fellow educators through The New Teacher Project (TNTP), aiding in mentor certification and the STEM Good to Great Program. She has been involved in state-level science training, and in leading the Middle School Science cohort The New Teacher Experience Affinity Groups to support teachers across Louisiana. Her contributions to education were recognized at the 2023 Teacher Leader Summit, where she shared insights about the support TNTP offers to educators and school leaders. Mrs. King's passion for science education has also taken her to the Space Exploration Educators Conference at NASA in Houston, Texas, where she gained valuable knowledge to enhance STEM instruction. She serves as a Teacher Leader in her school and in her current role as a state Teacher Leader Advisor. This is her second year as a state Teacher Leader Advisor.

## **Loren Klein**

Loren Klein earned a Master's degree in Gifted Education from Arkansas State University. He teaches eighth-grade academically gifted science and fundamentals of engineering at Paul Breaux Middle School in Lafayette Parish and has taught middle school science and social studies for over a decade. Mr. Klein is currently a member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the National Association of Gifted Children. Mr. Klein helped write district assessments and presented professional learning for middle school science and social studies, and in 2017 was a member of the Louisiana Student Standards for Science middle school workgroup. In the past, he has worked on science and social studies committees for the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program. He has been a Teacher Leader Advisor for the past nine years.

## **Nechelle Knoten**

Nechelle Knoten holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Louisiana State University, a Master of Arts in Multiple Subject Teaching from the University of Southern California, and a Master of Education in Instructional Design from Western Governors University. She is currently a fourth grade teacher in Iberville Parish and has served in this role for three years. Mrs. Williams-Knoten has nine years of teaching experience, working in both fourth and fifth grades with a focus on math and science. She taught for six years in East Baton Rouge Parish before moving to Iberville Parish. For the past eight years, she has also provided math tutoring both at her school and privately. In 2024, Ms. Knoten was recognized as a Regional Winner of the Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge Competition. She regularly volunteers as a judge for the Regional and State Science Fairs at Louisiana State University. Mrs. Williams-Knoten has also served on local committees related to math and science instruction and curriculum support.

## **Cristen Larousse**

Mrs. Cristen Larousse is a dedicated educator with thirteen years of experience. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education as well as a Master of Education in Educational Leadership. She is currently serving as Master Teacher in Ascension Parish. In this role, she supports classroom teachers in

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strengthening their best practices to better serve their students as well as elementary and middle school aged students in various schools. She is a member of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. She eagerly attends conferences around the country to strengthen her pedagogical skills as well as build her math toolbox so that she can further impact students and teachers in the mathematics classroom.

### **Mayria Ledet**

Ms. Ledet received a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Louisiana State University of Shreveport. She has nine years of experience in St. Landry Parish. She has spent all nine years learning, growing, and teaching fourth-grade mathematics. Ms. Ledet was chosen to be a Teacher Leader in her first year of teaching (2015), attending meetings and professional learning that would provide tools to continue to enhance student learning and growth; she continues to serve her school in this role. Ms. Ledet also serves as a Mathematics Content Leader in St. Landry Parish and leads content-specific professional learning for her school. She serves as a member of her school's Instructional Leadership Team lending her expertise so that she can help teachers continue to learn and grow so that they can best prepare students to be successful. She is a member of the Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics and has attended conferences for the past two years. She was chosen as a nominee for the 2020 LATM Elementary Mathematics Teacher of the Year. This is her fifth year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Shannon Lee**

Shannon Lee earned a Master of Science Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Louisiana Tech University. Mrs. Lee has been the Social Studies Facilitator in Lincoln Parish for three years where she supports all schools, grades Kindergarten through twelve. Prior to that, she was an assistant principal at Ruston High School for two years. She spent eighteen years in the classroom teaching social studies, health, and physical education to seventh- through twelfth grades. Mrs. Lee spent most of her time teaching United States History, Advanced Placement United States History, and Dual Enrollment United States History to eleventh-grade students. She had been a reader for the Advanced Placement United States History exam for the past seven years. Mrs. Lee has served on several committees for the Louisiana Department of Education such as the Assessment Committee, Range Finding Committee, Bias Review Committee, and Source Review Committees. Mrs. Lee has redelivered professional learning in alignment with the release of the new social studies standards and materials to the teachers in Lincoln Parish. She also completed the National Institute for School Leadership program.

### **Katie Leopard**

Katie Leopard earned a Master of Arts in Teaching and a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences from Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Arkansas. Ms. Leopard taught physics, chemistry, and physical science for seven years at Northeast Claiborne Charter High School. This year she began teaching biology. She has been the head of the science department for three years at Northeast Claiborne Charter. Ms. Leopard is a member of the Louisiana Science Teachers Association. For two years, Ms. Leopard piloted a physics curriculum for Louisiana. She was named a state Teacher Leader Advisor last year.

### **Shelley Lewis**

Shelley Lewis earned a Master of Business from the University of Phoenix, a Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management from Louisiana Tech University, along with teaching certificates in social studies and marketing from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, and an ancillary certificate issued by the Louisiana Department of Education. She is currently a National Institute for Excellence in Teaching

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mentor teacher specializing in social studies content, a social studies teacher in grades nine through twelve at Jeanerette High School in Iberia Parish, and a certified dual enrollment instructor with Louisiana State University. Mrs. Lewis serves on the LEAP 2025 Civics Advisory Panel. She was a member of the LEAP 2025 US History Rangefinding Committee. She is a member of the Shadows on the Teche, National Trust for Historic Preservation Advisory Group. Mrs. Lewis has been her school's Teacher Leader in social studies content for the past five years.

### **Jillian List**

Jillian List earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in Early Childhood Education. She is working on her Master's degree in Educational Leadership. She is currently a kindergarten teacher at Cecil Picard Elementary in Vermilion Parish. She has also taught first, second, and third grade. She is currently a Mentor Teacher and has mentored many college students during their residencies. She has presented multiple professional learning sessions for her district and has also collaborated with the Vermilion Parish curriculum department to create instructional materials, assessments, and pacing guides. This is Mrs. List's second year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Brianne Loupe**

Brianne Loupe holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Louisiana State University and a Master of Educational Leadership from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Mrs. Loupe has been teaching primarily middle school science for fourteen years and now teaches at North Corbin Junior High in Livingston Parish. She has taught science and social studies there for the past eight years, and she currently teaches eighth-grade science and a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) course. Mrs. Loupe has served on numerous committees over the past several years, including Livingston Parish's middle school science curriculum adoption committee in 2022 and the science assessment development committee for multiple years in both Livingston and Ascension parishes. She has led professional development for science assessment and technology for her school and district and has graded the written portion of middle school science assessments for other states for the past two years. Mrs. Loupe earned her Science Content Leader certification in 2021 and has served as a Mentor Teacher for new science teachers. This is her first year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Heather Lynch**

Heather Lynch earned a Bachelor of Science in Child and Family Studies from Louisiana State University and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Relay Graduate School of Education. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate in K-12 Educational Leadership at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Ms. Lynch serves as a District Literacy Coach in East Baton Rouge Parish where she works alongside principals, teachers, and staff to enhance literacy instruction, provide and support professional development, and ultimately elevate the overall literacy experience and achievement for all students. Prior to becoming a District Literacy Coach, Ms. Lynch taught kindergarten, 5th grade ELA, and STEM. In addition to her teaching experience, she has worked with her district as a member of the team that created virtual lessons and instructional materials for teachers across East Baton Rouge Parish and has also worked with her district to create and revise benchmark assessments for kindergarten through second grade in English language arts and math. Ms. Lynch is extremely honored and excited to serve her fifth year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

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## **Brittani Mandigo**

Brittani Mandigo earned her Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration as a reading specialist from Grambling State University in August 2020. Miss Mandigo has been an elementary teacher for eight years in Caddo Parish. She has taught third and fourth-grade English language arts for six years. She has been teaching fourth and fifth-grade social studies for the past two years. She has served as a campus mentor teacher for two years and has been a campus teacher leader for English language arts for four years. She is currently the campus teacher leader for social studies. She has been a new teacher mentor coach for first-year teachers for the past two years. She currently serves on the Graduate of Education Advisory Review Board for Grambling State University.

## **Danette Manuel**

Ms. Manuel holds a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education as well as a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction. She has 25 years of experience as an educator in Louisiana. Ms. Manuel taught social studies at the middle and high school levels for 17 years. She has been a mentor for new teachers for over 20 years and currently serves as a school-level mentor leader. She served as a social studies Master teacher at the high school level and in her current role as a middle school administrator, she supports both ELA and Social Studies. Ms. Manuel was selected as a Master Teacher of the Year 2019 in Calcasieu Parish, attended the C-SPAN Classroom Conference where she was one of thirty classroom teachers selected nationwide to attend an Educator's conference in Washington, DC. and was also recognized as an NSBA National Technology Showcase Teacher, where she served as a model classroom for the integration of technology into instruction to meet curriculum goals.

## **Gilbert Marcel**

Gilbert Marcel earned a Bachelor of Science in Security Management from the American Military University and his teaching certification through iTeach. Mr. Marcel is currently teaching ninth- through twelfth-grade Government and World Geography in Terrebonne Parish at Terrebonne High School. Mr. Marcel is currently a BETA sponsor and Sophomore Class sponsor at Terrebonne High School. He has attended Close-up in Washington D.C. and received additional training in Civic Education. Mr. Marcel has attended multiple professional learning sessions on the 2022 K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies within the Terrebonne Parish School District. These professional development sessions were focused on assessment development and standard studies with teachers throughout the district. This is Mr. Marcel's first year as a state Teacher Lead Advisor.

## **Kylie Martin**

Kylie Martin earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education in 2006 from Nicholls State University. Mrs. Martin has been the seventh-grade science teacher at Bayou Blue Middle School in Lafourche Parish for thirteen years. Prior to that, she taught fifth-grade math, science, and social studies at Bayou Blue Elementary School. For the past seven years, she has served as a Teacher Leader for the district where she creates district assessments and curriculum guidance for seventh-grade science, pilots a new science curriculum, and helps lead professional development meetings for the district of Lafourche. In 2018 and 2019, she was a member of the Science Item and Data Review Committees for the Integrated Louisiana Educational Assessment Program. She was named Louisiana Science Teacher of the Year in 2017. Ms.

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Martin has been a Teacher Leader Advisor since 2021 and has worked to transform instructional materials to be used virtually.

### **Amanda McFarlain**

Amanda McFarlain earned a Master of Education plus 30 from Northwestern State University. She is currently the district math coordinator for grades kindergarten to twelve in Sabine Parish. Prior to that, she taught kindergarten-first grade self-contained at Zwolle Elementary School for five years and spent five years at Negreet High School teaching fourth- and sixth-grade math. While at Negreet High, Mrs. McFarlain served as the Content Leader in math for grades kindergarten-eight where she redelivered professional learning. She is currently a member of the Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics. For the last twelve years, Mrs. McFarlain has assisted in the creation of implementation resources for all grades kindergarten through eight for Sabine Parish schools. In both the summer of 2017 and 2018 she was a member of the math item review committee for the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program. Mrs. McFarlain has been a teacher leader for her district for ten years and this will be her first year as a state Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Jaimie McQuarn**

Jaimie McQuarn earned a Master of Education with a concentration in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Mrs. McQuarn has been a science teacher in Ascension Parish for fifteen years. She currently teaches biology at East Ascension High School and has previously taught environmental science, physical science, chemistry, and advanced placement Chemistry, as well as sixth and eighth-grade science. She also served as a Master Teacher supporting ELA, Science, STEM, and Math at Lowery Middle School for two years. Mrs. McQuarn has helped write district-level benchmarks for biology, chemistry, and middle school science. As a Science Content Leader, she worked on a team to revise the Middle School pacing and curriculum for Ascension Parish. Mrs. McQuarn has been a state Teacher Leader Advisor for the past five years.

### **Stacey Meehan**

Stacey Meehan earned her Master of Arts in teaching from the University of New Orleans. Ms. Meehan is currently an Executive Master Teacher in Jefferson Parish. She was previously an English Language Arts School Support Coordinator in Jefferson Parish. Prior to that, she taught first grade for five years at J. C. Ellis Elementary. She was also a member of her school's instructional leadership team. Ms. Meehan worked closely with writing and reviewing lessons for the Louisiana Department of Education's Accelerate program. This will be Ms. Meehan's third year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Samantha Mendenhall**

Samantha Mendenhall earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education in December of 2007 from Louisiana State University. Currently, Ms. Mendenhall teaches eighth-grade science at Port Allen Middle in the West Baton Rouge Parish School System, a position she has held for the past six years. Prior to that, Ms. Mendenhall served as the school's media specialist for five years, reading teacher for one year, and fifth-grade teacher for three years, along with other teaching positions. Ms. Mendenhall is currently a member and Region 2 representative of the Louisiana Science Teachers Association and a member of the National Science Teachers Association. Ms. Mendenhall has presented at the Louisiana Computer Using Educators, Louisiana Association of School Librarians, Louisiana Teacher Leader, and the International

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Society for Technology in Education annual conferences. She has also presented professional learning for her school and her district. Ms. Mendenhall is a certified Mentor Teacher and Science Content Leader. She has also served as her school's science teacher leader. This is Ms. Mendenhall's second year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Dedria Mercadal**

Dedria Mercadal earned a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Southeastern Louisiana University. She is currently enrolled in the alternative certification program for School Leadership at the University of New Orleans. Dedria is a Math Instructional Coach with St. Tammany Parish Schools. She began her teaching career at Crestworth Elementary in Baton Rouge as a fifth-grade English language arts and social studies teacher. She has been an educator for nine years; seven years as an elementary classroom teacher, and two years as an instructional coach. Dedria serves as a certified Math Content Leader in her district. For the past two years, Dedria has served on the assessment committee in her district to help write kindergarten and third-grade math assessments. She is a reflective life-long learner and is committed to impacting the students of Louisiana.

### **Shannon Mitchem**

Shannon Mitchem earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Southeastern Louisiana University. Mrs. Mitchem has been a district-wide Math Instructional Support Specialist in Zachary Community Schools for two years and served as a Middle School Math Coach for one year. Prior to that, she taught one year of sixth and seventh-grade math, ten years of Algebra I, and seventeen years of eighth-grade Pre-Algebra. She has been Nationally Board Certified in Early Adolescent Mathematics for thirteen years. She is also certified in Middle School Math and Secondary Math. Mrs. Mitchem is currently a member of the Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics. She has been a Teacher Leader for eight years.

### **Dana Moore**

Dana Moore is a 2007 graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She completed her graduate studies at Walden University in 2011 and earned a Master's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting. Mrs. Moore enjoyed a fifteen-year career focusing mostly on Project/Cost Accounting before making a career change to the teaching profession. She holds certifications in Business and Elementary Education, and English Language Learners, and is currently pursuing an Algebra I certification, STEM Micro-credential, and Mentor Teacher certification. Mrs. Moore is going into her fourth year as a Business Education teacher at St. Martinville Senior High School in Saint Martin Parish and had the great honor of working under the tutelage of the Louisiana State finalist for 2020-2021 Principal of the Year, Mr. Kevin Dugas. She began her teaching career nine years ago as an elementary education teacher but has successfully transitioned into high school teaching where she intends to remain for the duration of her career.

### **Jennifer Moreland**

Jennifer Moreland earned a Bachelor of Science in Education with a certification in PK-fifth grade. Ms. Moreland currently teaches second grade. Before that, she taught third-grade English language arts and

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social studies for five years and first grade for one year. In addition, Ms. Moreland served as a Reading Interventionist for kindergarten through fifth grade. She aided her school district in writing virtual lessons during the 2020-2021 school year to ensure students would have an opportunity to have quality instruction virtually. Ms. Moreland earned a certification to be an English Language Arts Content Leader in 2020 as well as served as a Teacher Leader for the last three years to aid in making school-wide decisions regarding English language arts. She has also served on multiple committees to plan events to promote a love of reading and foster positive school-community relationships.

## **Alexandra Mossing**

Alexandra Mossing earned a Master of Education degree in Educational Leadership through the University of New Orleans and is certified in secondary education through Tulane University. She graduated from the University of Mississippi Honors College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in international studies and Spanish. Ms. Mossing has taught seventh and eighth-grade social studies at Hynes Charter School in New Orleans for the past six years. Prior to that, she taught fifth and sixth-grade social studies, as well as sixth-grade English language arts, for seven years in New Orleans charter schools. Alexandra maintains a membership in the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development. She has served on her school leadership team as the instructional team leader for middle school English language arts and social studies for the past four years and often leads professional development meetings. Additionally, she has written the social studies curriculum for a charter school consortium, and she serves as a Mentor Teacher for all social studies teachers in the Hynes Charter School Corporation.

## **Emily Mull**

Emily Mull has been an educator for twenty-five years. She earned a Master of Education with a reading specialist certification from Southeastern Louisiana University. Mrs. Mull has been the elementary English language arts curriculum specialist for the St. Tammany Parish School System for the past ten years. She is a certified English language arts Content Leader and trains teachers in the content leader program. Prior to that, Mrs. Mull was a reading interventionist, instructional coach, and second and third-grade teacher. Mrs. Mull has presented at the district, state, and international levels and is a member of The Reading League, International Literacy Association, and Louisiana Reading Association. As a curriculum specialist, Mrs. Mull supports over 500 kindergarten, first-grade, and second-grade teachers with literacy curriculum and instruction. She co-authored a resource for teachers, "The Word Work Guide," that explains the phonics rules and provides instructional tips.

## **Krystal Myrick**

Krystal Myrick is a passionate and proven educational leader currently serving as the Exceptional Student Services Supervisor for Rapides Parish Schools. With over a decade of classroom experience and a deep commitment to student growth, Krystal has built a career rooted in equity, excellence, and empowerment. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from LSU-Alexandria, a Master of Arts in Teaching from Northwestern State University, and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Educational Leadership. Her educational philosophy is driven by the belief that every student deserves to be seen, supported, and challenged — and that meaningful leadership is built through service, strategy, and heart. Krystal spent more than ten years teaching both elementary students and ninth grade English I. Her work as a Lead Teacher for five years at Tioga High School was instrumental in helping the school achieve and maintain an "A" rating. In that role, she coordinated major campus-wide initiatives such as ACT and WorkKeys boot camps, RTI implementation, SLT development, and standardized testing logistics. She also mentored teachers, led professional development, and contributed to long-term academic planning. Krystal has

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been a key contributor to initiatives such as the Teacher Advisory Panel, Task Force Committee, and Leading for Better Instruction — consistently elevating teacher voice and instructional quality. Now, as a district-level supervisor, she continues to champion inclusive practices and advocate for students with exceptional needs — ensuring every learner receives the support and opportunities they deserve.

## **Lisa Nance**

Mrs. Nance holds a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology degree from Louisiana Tech University. Working as a certified medical technologist sparked her desire to be an educator in science. Mrs. Nance went on to complete her alternative certification in 2003 and followed up with her Master's degree in Educational Leadership as well as a plus 30 certification in 2011. Mrs. Nance taught science for fifteen years in chemistry, biology, human anatomy and physiology, microbiology, physical science, and earth science. While teaching science, Mrs. Nance was also the Biotechnology Magnet Coordinator at Southwood High School for five years. In 2014, she left the classroom to serve as the sixth through twelfth-grade Science Curriculum Instructional Specialist for Caddo Parish Schools. Mrs. Nance also served on the workgroup to develop new science standards for Louisiana and since the adoption of the new standards in March of 2017, she has worked with the Louisiana Department of Education to create companion documents for the new science standards to support students with exceptional disabilities. Mrs. Nance served on the committee creating scope and sequence documents for high school biology and wrote several assessment items. In 2019-2020, the Caddo STEM Summit Team, of which Mrs. Nance is a member, was chosen as one of twenty-two teams from across the country to work alongside mentors at the Smithsonian Institute and Shell Oil Company to develop a plan to increase the number of STEM teachers in Caddo Parish Schools. Recently, Mrs. Nance created NGSS/LSSS crosswalk documents for middle and high school science.

## **Kira Neal**

Kira Neal earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Southeastern Louisiana University. Mrs. Neal currently teaches third-grade math at Pontchartrain Elementary School in St. Tammany Parish. Mrs. Neal has been an elementary school teacher for the past ten years, teaching first, second, and third grades. She is currently a member of the Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics and attended the Teacher Leader Summit in 2023. While teaching second grade, Mrs. Neal has helped write math district assessments for second grade. In 2021 - 2022, she participated in and completed the Math Content Leader Program for Louisiana via St. Tammany Parish. Mrs. Neal has been a Teacher Leader for six years in St. Tammany Parish and is a state Teacher Leader Advisor for the second time this year.

## **JaVonn Nicholas**

Mrs. JaVonn W. Nicholas earned a Bachelor of Science from Jackson State University, a Master of Arts in Education with a concentration in Curriculum and Instruction Computer Education from the University Of Phoenix and a Master of Arts in Education from Louisiana Tech University. Mrs. Nicholas has been the District Instructional Coordinator: Educational Technology beginning this 2022 -2023 school year. Prior to that, in Madison Parish, Mrs. Nicholas served as the Interim Principal for upper elementary, grades third through fifth for one year. She taught sixth through eighth-grade science for sixteen years. During those years as a middle school science teacher, Ms. Nicholas has been a part of the school leadership team. Mrs. Nicholas has served as her school's science content Teacher Leader, TAP Mentor Teacher, 21st Century Site Coordinator, and Educational Liaison, and has been a part of the school/district instructional leadership and assessment team in Madison Parish since 2021. Mrs. Nicholas has conducted district-wide professional learning with teachers on integrating technology in the classrooms. Mrs. Nicholas is excited

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about the path ahead highlighted by possibility, creativity, and a common commitment to an impact in improving the educational processes for all stakeholders.

### **Phuong Normand**

Mrs. Normand earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from the University of New Orleans and a Master of Education degree in Dyslexia Therapy from William Carey College. Mrs. Normand has been a first-grade teacher since 1998 and recently earned her Educational Leadership Certification. She has been a Mentor Teacher for two years, a Teacher Leader, and a member of her school's Advancement Plan team for three years. She is her school's webmaster and served in various leadership roles in her school, including summer camp director, yearbook advisor, Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy assessment team, school-wide professional development team, and organized and planned family math and literacy nights.

### **Danielle Pisani**

Danielle Pisani earned a Bachelor of Social Studies secondary education from Nicholls State University. Miss Pisani is currently the United States History & Civics teacher for the Louisiana Virtual Charter Academy. Prior to that, she taught American History, World History, English language arts, reading, and computer literacy in her eleven years at Berwick Junior High. Striving to be active in her school community, Miss Pisani served on the school leadership committee, was the Student Council advisor, and led educational trips around the country for her students. During the 2021-2022 school year, she earned the honor of Teacher of the Year for Berwick Junior High and State Teacher of the Year for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Miss Pisani served on the Standard Setting, Item Bias Review, and Rangefinding Committees for the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program. In 2018, she presented how to use scoring in the social studies classroom at the Teacher Leader Summit. This will be her third year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **K. Renae Pullen**

K. Renae Pullen earned a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from Louisiana State University in Shreveport. Ms. Pullen has been the elementary science specialist for Caddo Parish Public Schools for six years. Prior to that, she was an elementary classroom teacher for sixteen years. She is a member of the Louisiana Science Teachers Association and the Society of Elementary Presidential Awardees. Besides being a dedicated science educator in Caddo, Ms. Pullen has served on several local, state, and national committees as well as presented at numerous workshops and conferences. She was a member of the Louisiana Student Standards for Science workgroup that developed the new science standards, and she currently serves as a member of the Board on Science Education for the National Academies of Sciences. Ms. Pullen is a STEM Ambassador for the National Science Teaching Association and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and a member of the National Science Foundation's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Advisory Panel. In 2008, she was honored with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. Ms. Pullen developed upper elementary EAGLE items for science as a Teacher Leader Advisor in 2018-2023.

### **Angelle Ransonet**

Angelle Ransonet earned a Master of Education in Educational Technology Leadership from the University of Louisiana Monroe. Mrs. Ransonet has been a district Technology Facilitator for St. Mary Parish for two

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years. Prior to that, she was a school librarian for nine years and a middle school English teacher for seven and a half years in Iberia Parish. Mrs. Ransonet is a member of the Louisiana Association of Computer-Using Educators and the Texas Computer Education Association. She has presented at the Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators conference, Teacher Leader Summit, and Louisiana Association of School Librarians Professional Development Day about technology integration. Mrs. Ransonet is a certified Microsoft Educator and Google Level One Certified Educator.

## **Misty Reed**

Dr. Misty L. Reed holds a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Science and Mathematics Education, a Master of Science degree in Biological and Chemical Sciences, a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice, a Master of Education degree with dual concentrations in Educational Diagnostics and Mild/Moderate for grades six through twelve, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with a minor in Biochemistry. She holds thirteen certifications/endorsements on her Louisiana teacher license. Misty has a history of leadership in the field, having served as an Instructional Specialist and Master Teacher Leader and serving as an Educational Diagnostician in Orleans Parish. Dr. Reed also professes at Southern University and A&M College in the School of Education and coordinates for the Special Education majors, bringing over eleven years of expertise in education. This will be her first experience participating on a state-level committee related to curriculum design and educational standards.

## **Allie Reichert**

Allie Reichert earned a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Southeastern Louisiana University with a certification in the Science of Reading. Mrs. Reichert is currently a second-grade teacher at Abita Springs Elementary in St. Tammany Parish as she goes into her ninth year of teaching. Mrs. Reichert is serving on her school's Academic and Data committee and has served as a teacher leader for her current grade level this past school year. Prior to this, Mrs. Reichert was a kindergarten teacher for two years, a third-grade teacher for three years, and a second-grade teacher at Lacoste Elementary in St. Bernard Parish. She has also served both of her districts with creating assessments for multiple subjects in multiple grade levels. Mrs. Reichert was a coach and sponsor for her prior school's dance team for five years and the head of the Terrific Kid Program for five years. This is Mrs. Reichert's first year as a state Teacher Leader Advisor!

## **Marquise Reine**

Marquise Reine earned a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from Louisiana State University Shreveport. Ms. Reine is an assistant principal at The Willow School in Orleans Parish where she has worked for ten years. She began her teaching career at ReNew Cultural Arts Academy where she taught third grade for three years. She taught fourth-grade mathematics for nine years at The Willow School. Ms. Reine designs and leads professional development sessions through her school's Culturally Relevant Pedagogy Cadre. She also serves on her school's elementary and strategic planning leadership teams. In 2017, she completed the Louisiana Systemic Initiatives Program's Summer Mathematics Institute at the University of New Orleans. She participated in the School Leadership Center of Greater New Orleans' School Leader Collaborative for three years. She was selected as the 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year at The Willow School. Ms. Reine is excited to serve as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

## **Amanda Reulet**

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Amanda Reulet earned a Master's in Social Work from Louisiana State University. Ms. Reulet has been the Media Specialist at Lukeville Elementary School in West Baton Rouge Parish for the last eleven years. Prior to that, she taught French to Middle and High School students for eight years. During her time as a Media Specialist, she has served as lead for the school's robotics team, taught third grade Science, taught Reading to grades three through five, and implemented STEM into her library. For the last two years, she has taught a STEM class for grades two and three. Ms. Reulet earned the International Society for Technology in Education certification. She has also spent the last six years presenting at conferences at the district, state, and international levels on incorporating STEM in not only the library but across the curriculum.

## **Lauren Rhodus**

Lauren Rhodus holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Education from Southeastern Louisiana University. Mrs. Rhodus currently serves as the secondary English Language Arts Curriculum Specialist for the St. Tammany Parish Public School System. She is a certified Mentor Teacher and English Language Arts Content Leader. Prior to her current role, she taught high school English for 19 years where her goal was to inspire curiosity and spark a desire for knowledge in her students daily. She serves on her district's ACT Committee to support teachers and leaders in creating opportunities for all students to achieve academic success. Last year she served on the state curriculum writing team. Mrs. Rhodus has been a Teacher Leader and has presented at the district and state levels. She was selected as the High School Division Teacher of the Year for St. Tammany Parish Public Schools during the 2019-2020 school year.

## **Dolly Rousseau**

Ms. Dolly Rousseau earned a Master of Education with a major concentration in Educational Leadership and a minor in Counseling from Grand Canyon University. Ms. Rousseau has been teaching for 19 years, 17 of those focused on middle and high school students. During her time she has taught every major subject in the seventh and eighth grade, as well as 4 years teaching as a Reading Interventionist in the READ 180 program for middle and high school. Ms. Rousseau has held many school-level jobs in her teaching tenure including Technology Coordinator, Positive Behavior Intervention System Coordinator, Title I Coordinator, Parental Involvement Coordinator, Leadership Team Member, and Mentor Teacher. She has also received accreditation from the Rapides Foundation Aspiring Leaders program, allowing her to receive state-wide leadership training to prepare future educators. Currently, Ms. Rousseau teaches seventh and eighth-grade math at Marksville High School in Avoyelles Parish. Ms. Rousseau is currently a member of the Louisiana Association of Teachers.

## **Paula Rowe**

Paula Rowe earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from Louisiana State University and a Master of Arts in History with a concentration in American History from Louisiana Tech University. For the last seventeen years, Mrs. Rowe has taught high school Social Studies at C. E. Byrd High School where she serves as the U. S. History Dual Enrollment Instructor through Louisiana Tech University. In 2012, she earned her National Board Teaching Certification and earned the Maintenance of Certification in 2021. For the last six years, she has served as district content leader in Caddo Parish where she developed resources aligned with state secondary social studies standards, attended content and writing workshops, assisted with redelivery of material, and presented at district-wide professional development. She currently serves as Department Chair and Site Teacher Leader for social studies at her school. This will be her first year as Teacher Leader Advisor.

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## **Ashley Salinas**

Ashley Salinas earned a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with an English as a Second Language specialist certification from Louisiana State University Shreveport. For the past several years, Ms. Salinas has worked to write curriculum Guidebooks for Caddo Parish as well as plan professional developments. In addition to her district work, Ms. Salinas teaches seventh-grade American History. Ms. Salinas is the lead seventh-grade teacher for her school. Ms. Salinas has been selected as the 2022-2023 teacher of the year for her school and has been selected as a district finalist. Ms. Salinas has read and reviewed professional developments on state standards with Caddo Parish. She has also attended multiple professional developments on the social studies state standards. She has attended the Teacher Leader Summit. She looks forward to presenting at Teacher Leader Summit and she is excited to serve again as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

## **Ashley Samuel**

Ms. Samuel graduated from Centenary College of Louisiana, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. Ms. Samuel went on to earn a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from Louisiana State University Shreveport. She completed gifted certification at Louisiana State University. Ms. Samuel teaches third and fifth-grade gifted math at Fairfield Elementary Magnet in Shreveport, LA. She is passionate about helping students realize the importance of learning and how it connects to everyday life. Ms. Samuel is passionate about developing relationships with her students that instill excitement, curiosity, and joy for learning. This will be Ms. Samuel's third year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

## **Lauren Saulsbury**

Lauren Saulsbury holds a Bachelor of General Studies from Louisiana State University-Shreveport and a Master of Education in Educational Technology Leadership from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Lauren has been employed at the Caddo Parish School District for five years where she is currently serving as a social studies teacher for Youree Drive Middle School. Beyond her classroom duties, Lauren is a Level 1 and Level 2 Google Certified Educator, a Nearpod certified educator, a Diffit certified educator, and a Magic School AI certified educator. Lauren has dedicated her five years in the school system to creating content for students in her social studies classroom. Additionally, she has served on the Caddo Parish Social Studies Curriculum Task Force and worked closely with the Caddo Technology Team, demonstrating her commitment to leadership and professional development.

## **Christine Scheller**

Christine Scheller holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Southeastern Louisiana University. Before entering education, she worked in television and film production. After receiving her teaching license, she gained experience teaching a variety of subjects, including Civics, Broadcasting, Customer Service, and Computer Coding. She currently teaches Broadcasting and Computer Coding at Northshore High School and is the percussion instructor at Slidell High School.

## **Stacey Schouest**

Ms. Stacey Schouest holds a Master of Education degree in Educational Leadership. She is currently teaching introduction to coding and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to middle school students at her school, where she has served in this role for the past two years. Prior to this, she taught

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middle school mathematics for fifteen years, during which she developed and implemented instructional strategies to support student success in mathematics. Ms. Schouest has served on school-based committees focused on curriculum alignment and instructional planning in mathematics and science. She has participated in district-level review teams, contributing to the evaluation of instructional materials and pacing guides. Her work has included involvement in the development of assessments aligned with academic standards in mathematics. She has also served as a teacher leader in mathematics, mentoring colleagues and leading professional learning communities. In addition, she has held the position of lead teacher for her grade level, facilitating communication between administration and faculty. Through her leadership and instructional experience, Ms. Schouest has supported student achievement and professional growth across multiple subject areas.

### **Erica Shepherd**

Erica Shepherd earned a Master of Education with a technology facilitator and English as a Second Language certification from Southeastern Louisiana University. Mrs. Shepherd is currently the Master Teacher at Belle Chasse Middle School in Plaquemines Parish where she works to support the fifth through eighth grade teachers in instructional methods and professional development. She also serves on her school's leadership team and is a Mentor Teacher. Prior to that, she taught fourth grade for fifteen years, fifth grade for one year, and English Language Learners for four years. In 2020, she was awarded Plaquemines Parish Elementary Teacher of the Year. Last year, she was a member of the fifth-grade social studies item review committee for the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program and has participated on the LEAP Connect and the ELA assessment review committees. Mrs. Shepherd has been her school's Master Teacher for one year and this is her first year as a state Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Hailey Simon**

Hailey Simon holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Mrs. Simon has been a lead pre-kindergarten teacher for the past seven years at Eaton Park Elementary in Vermilion Parish. Prior to teaching pre-kindergarten, Mrs. Simon also taught second grade in Vermilion Parish and third grade in Acadia Parish. Mrs. Simon was selected as the Eaton Park Elementary Teacher of the Year for the 2018-2019 school year. This will be her third year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Rebecca Simon**

Rebecca Simon earned her Masters of Arts in English through the University of New Orleans and is a doctoral candidate in Curriculum and Instruction for the University of Louisiana Monroe. She has been the Master Teacher at Westgate High School for the past four years. Prior to that, she taught English for four years at the high school level. She has served as a member of the Iberia Parish Curriculum Review Committee for English. This is her first year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Hailey Smith**

Hailey Smith earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Louisiana Christian University and holds certification in Educational Leadership. With nine years of experience in education, she began her career as a paraprofessional before becoming a classroom teacher in first grade and teaching kindergarten. Mrs. Smith later served as a literacy coach and then as a kindergarten through third grade English language arts instructional coach at the district level. She is currently an Instructional Facilitator at Baskin School.

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Throughout her career, she has focused on early literacy development and instructional support. She has served on her district's curriculum review committee and currently serves on the assessment writing committee. This is her first year serving as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Margaret Smith**

Margaret Smith earned a Master of Educational Leadership from Northwestern State University. Mrs. Smith has been an elementary teacher for eleven years. She taught fifth grade Social Studies and Science for three years, as well as third grade ELA for three years in Acadia Parish. After working in Acadia for six years, she then moved to Jefferson Davis Parish and has been teaching fourth grade ELA for the past five years. Mrs. Smith has presented several professional learning sessions at the Jefferson Davis Parish Tech-Con for the past 2 years, as well as presenting at the Calcasieu Parish Tech-Con in 2023. She was also chosen to redeliver her trainings from Teacher Leader Summit to her district in 2023. During the summer of 2023, Mrs. Smith participated in the ELA item review committee for the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program and the Integrated Louisiana Educational Assessment Program. She has helped her district create the fourth grade curriculum scope and sequence, formative assessments, and summative assessments. Mrs. Smith is currently a Teacher Leader/Mentor Teacher at her school for ELA and the fourth grade teachers in her district. Mrs. Smith is currently on the ILT team at her elementary school and often leads the fourth and fifth grade PLCs. Mrs. Smith is currently enrolled in Project Endorsement Plus and will be receiving her English Language Learners Teaching Certificate in June of 2025.

### **Tiffany Smith**

Tiffany Smith earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education in 2011. Mrs. Smith currently serves as the Curriculum Facilitator at Foster Elementary School. Prior to this year, she was a Social-Emotional Learning Coach for two years and a fourth-grade English Language Arts teacher for eight years at Hattie Watts Elementary. Mrs. Smith earned her Louisiana ELA Content Leader certification in 2020 and her Mentor Teacher certification in 2022. She also completed training sessions to earn the Microsoft Innovative Educator distinction. During her tenure at Hattie Watts, Mrs. Smith was a member of the school's Leader in Me Faculty Lighthouse Team, establishing protocols for empowering student-led learning. Mrs. Smith has mentored new teachers for the past seven years. Additionally, she has led numerous school and district-level professional development sessions aimed at enhancing the effective implementation of several ELA curricular programs, including ELA Guidebooks. This is Mrs. Smith's first year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Lacie Soileau**

Lacie Soileau began her educational journey in 2011 when she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Communication with a concentration in English from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She then went on to earn her Teaching Certification through Louisiana College in Pineville as well as a Master's Degree in Teaching and Learning. She also holds her Mentor Teacher Certification as well as her Educational Leadership Certification. Mrs. Soileau has been in education for twelve years and has taught both elementary and middle school students in all subjects, as well as being highly qualified in ELA, and serving as an Instructional Leader serving grades K-12. She is currently a 3rd Grade Teacher at Milton Elementary School in Lafayette Parish. Mrs. Soileau is the Elementary Representative for her school's Positive Behavioral Interventions And Supports Program and was chosen as the 2022 Evangeline Parish Elementary Teacher of the Year. This is Mrs. Soileau's second time serving as a Teacher Leader Advisor and she is looking forward to continuing to help make a difference in the world of education!

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## **Jessica “Joy” Stalnaker**

Jessica “Joy” Stalnaker earned her Bachelor of Arts from Centenary College (2000), a Master of Arts from the University of Colorado (2004), and a Master in Teaching from McNeese State University (2010). She is currently serving as a first-grade French Immersion teacher. A native Californian, she has devoted her life to Louisiana students since 2004. She has worked diligently at all levels of Louisiana education in the past twenty years: as an adjunct professor (Louisiana State University at Eunice), a high school department head, an eighth grade Louisiana Educational Assessment Program coach, teaching in immersion schools for pre-kindergarten to fifth grade, and is active with a multitude of organizations, both state and nationwide. She is certified by the State of Louisiana to teach French K-12, English 6-12, grades PK-3, and is a Mentor Teacher (UL Lafayette). In addition to this, she teaches online French courses for the Tennessee Language Center and the University of Knoxville. She has served on district curriculum teams since 2015, on her school’s Technology committee since 2019, and as an Educational Consultant creating digital resources for Tél  -Louisiane since 2020.

## **Addoree Stuckey**

Addoree Stuckey earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and a Master of Education Plus 30 from Northwestern State University (NSU) of Natchitoches, Louisiana. Mrs. Stuckey has been teaching in Natchitoches Parish for sixteen years. She currently teaches sixth-grade English Language Arts at East Natchitoches Elementary/Middle School. To ensure she is using best practices in the classroom and providing effective support to her peers, Mrs. Stuckey has received her ancillary certification as an English Language Arts Content Leader and Mentor Teacher. As a content leader, Mrs. Stuckey has been part of curriculum development for the district for several years, which included being a presenter for multiple district professional developments. Along with district initiatives, she has participated in Louisiana Department of Education ELA Educator review committees. In addition, she has completed the University of Washington Center for Educational Leadership Aspiring Leaders Program sponsored by the Orchard Foundation. In 2023, the Louisiana Department of Education selected Mrs. Stuckey as a Louisiana Teacher of the Year Semifinalist.

## **Jill Sutton**

Jill Sutton earned her Master of Arts in Teaching from Louisiana Tech University. Mrs. Sutton has taught biology for sixteen years mostly in Lincoln Parish. Currently, she is the instructional science coach for Ruston High School where she teaches tenth grade Pre-AP and twelfth grade AP Biology. Mrs. Sutton received her Mentor Teacher Certification during the 2019-2020 school year and has hosted resident teachers over the past five years. Her work with pre-service teacher programs was extended during the 2022-2023 school year as she was chosen to serve on the Louisiana Believe and Prepare Science Collaborative to develop a course with materials for incoming K-5 science teachers. In 2019, Mrs. Sutton served on the Biology Rangefinding Committee for the 2025 Louisiana Educational Assessment Program where she worked with standards and criteria to provide input in scoring extended response items for the state assessment. Mrs. Sutton also has created district-wide curriculum pacing guides and assessments over the past seven years for Lincoln Parish. Mrs. Sutton is excited to use her experiences listed above as well as her training with science curriculum to develop resources for secondary science.

## **Latasha Thomas**

Mrs. Latasha Thomas earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Southern University at New Orleans. Mrs. Thomas has over ten years of instructional experience, including third, fourth, and fifth

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grade where she is currently teaching in St. John the Baptist Parish. Currently, Mrs. Thomas teaches fifth-grade math. Throughout her teaching experience, Mrs. Thomas has served as a mentor teacher for two years and has been recognized as Teacher of the Year at the school level. Mrs. Thomas participated in the development of the scope and sequence for fifth-grade math for the St. John the Baptist Parish Public School System. This is her first year as a teacher-leader advisor.

### **Aunjel Thompson**

Aunjel Thompson earned a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Pathology and Audiology, with minors in English and Child and Family Studies from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She currently teaches third grade math and social studies in Calcasieu Parish in Lake Charles, Louisiana. The 2025–2026 school year will mark her eighth year in education, all of which have been at Brentwood Elementary School. Ms. Thompson has previously taught all core content areas in first and third grade, and English Language Arts and social studies in fifth grade. She has a strong focus on literacy instruction, differentiated support for diverse learners, and standards-aligned curriculum implementation. Ms. Thompson serves as a peer mentor on her campus and plays an active role on her school's literacy and behavior support committees. She contributes to district-level professional development efforts for elementary social studies educators and has participated in the following state-level committees: Data Review, Standard Setting, Achievement Level Descriptor Alignment, and LEAP Connect Item Review. She was recognized as the 2023 Elementary Teacher of the Year for Calcasieu Parish and is currently serving her first year as a state Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Rachel Telesco**

Rachel Telesco earned a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Louisiana State University Shreveport. Mrs. Telesco is currently a seventh-grade math teacher at Galvez Middle School in Ascension Parish where she has been the past four years. Prior to that, she taught in Lafayette Parish for eight years. In Lafayette Parish, she was the mathematics department head and grade-level chair for her school before moving to Ascension. In Ascension Parish, she has served on the benchmark writing team and the leadership team for her school. This will be Mrs. Telesco's first year serving as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Cristi Trahan**

Cristi Trahan earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in Elementary Education. In 2016, Mrs. Trahan earned a Master of Educational Leadership from the American College of Education. Mrs. Trahan has been a Kindergarten teacher in Vermilion Parish for four years. Prior to that, she taught first grade for three years, third grade for three years, and fourth grade for two years. Mrs. Trahan is currently a Kindergarten lead teacher and presents at annual district-level redelivery trainings. Mrs. Trahan recently joined her parish's curriculum review committee for social studies. Mrs. Trahan looks forward to using her experiences in various grade levels to make decisions that will positively impact the students of Louisiana.

### **Shondolyn Truman**

Shondolyn S. Truman currently holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Administration and Supervision. She is an eighth-grade science teacher. She has been a certified, dedicated educator in Caddo Parish Public Schools with highly effective and exceptional performance since 1999. She serves as school level teacher leader advisor, Louisiana state certified mentor teacher for

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several years and Louisiana teacher leader advisor for IMR Science. Ms. Truman has over ten years of experience in teaching sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade middle school science. This is her second year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Mevlida Turkes-Habibovic**

Mevlida Turkes-Habibovic earned a Doctorate in Counselor Education from the University of New Orleans. She is a certified social studies teacher, Mentor Teacher, and National Institute for Excellence in Teaching certified evaluator. Dr. Turkes-Habibovic has been teaching social studies within Jefferson Parish Public Schools since 2016. She is also currently serving as a Mentor Teacher, Jefferson Parish Social Studies Content Leader Fellow, and Jefferson Parish Mission R.E.A.C.H. Teacher. Dr. Turkes-Habibovic has helped develop social studies district assessments in 2020 and has also served as a Teacher Leader Fellow for two years. Dr. Turkes-Habibovic has been on her school's instructional leadership team since 2019. This is her third year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Brittany Van Norman**

Mrs. Brittany Van Norman holds a Master's degree in Educational Technology Leadership from LSU Shreveport and brings ten years of teaching experience to the classroom. For the past five years, she has taught fifth-grade science, and this year marks her second year teaching both fifth-grade science and social studies at J.I. Watson Elementary School in Iowa, Louisiana, part of the Calcasieu Parish School District. Previously, Mrs. Van Norman taught in Jefferson Davis Parish, where she served on the curriculum review committee to help adopt the most effective curriculum for the district. She also served as a district common assessment writer and teacher leader, contributing to the development of science assessments for grades five through eight. Her experience across multiple grade levels gives her valuable insight into the progression of Louisiana standards, allowing her to effectively prepare students and address instructional gaps. With a strong passion for combining science and technology, Mrs. Van Norman focuses on engaging students through the use of digital tools and interactive learning strategies that enhance instruction and collaboration. She has experience teaching Tier 1 curricula and developing cross-curricular units aligned with state standards. She is committed to sharing ideas, collaborating with peers, and using data and technology to drive meaningful instruction.

### **Melanie Vernon**

Melanie Vernon earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Christian Brothers University in 2009. Ms. Vernon has been teaching at the kindergarten through third-grade level in self-contained classrooms for fifteen years. For the last five years, Ms. Vernon has been teaching third grade at St. Paul's Episcopal School. Ms. Vernon has served on committees that are responsible for adopting curricula and assisting teachers with the implementation of curricula. She has also attended numerous professional learning sessions on curriculum implementation. This is Ms. Vernon's second year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Pamela Vining**

Pamela Vining earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern State University. Her areas of certification include kindergarten through eighth grade, computer literacy, and Teacher Mentor. Mrs. Vining has been the elementary math interventionist at Ringgold Elementary School in Bienville Parish for two years and a teacher mentor for three years. Prior to that, her thirty-plus years of teaching experience include positions in self-contained and departmentalized classrooms across various grade levels spanning first through sixth grades in the states of Louisiana and Iowa, where she also served on the Area

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Education Agency Special Education Consultation Team. She has participated in extensive training and teacher development courses including Eureka Math, Zearn, DIBELS, and Cognitively Guided Instruction. As an active participant in promoting positive change in her rural community, she has served in extra-curricular roles as a School Building Level Committee member, after-school tutor, Twenty-first Century teacher, and piano instructor, and is currently working towards certification with Project Lead The Way as a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics instructor.

### **Karrie Ward**

Karrie Ward is a secondary certified math teacher with over seventeen years of experience as a middle school math teacher. She has held various roles in education as a trainer, curriculum specialist, and mentor. Ms. Ward is a member of the Louisiana Teacher Advisory Council. She is currently a middle-year math teacher at an International Baccalaureate World School. This is her first year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Trisha Weaver**

Trisha M. Weaver earned a Master of Education in School Counseling and a plus 30 in Adult Education from Northwestern State University. In her twenty-seventh year in education, Ms. Weaver is currently teaching fifth and sixth-grade social studies in Natchitoches Parish. Prior to that, she was an Instructional Specialist for two years and an assistant principal and master teacher in the parish. For eleven years, Ms. Weaver served as a School Improvement Coordinator for the Louisiana Department of Education through the Regional Education Service Centers conducting professional learning at the school, district, and state levels. Ms. Weaver is currently serving as a lead teacher for her school.

### **Krishena Weathersby**

Krishena D. Weathersby is currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health with a concentration in Environmental and Occupational Health from Walden University. She holds a Master of Secondary Education in Biology from Delta State University and a Bachelor of Science in Anthropology from Louisiana State University. Ms. Weathersby has served as a certified master teacher of science at Park Forest Middle School in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System for four years, where she teaches eighth-grade science, environmental science, and aquaponics. She has over ten years of experience in science education and curriculum development, including previous service as a middle school science teacher in Mississippi. Ms. Weathersby currently serves as the science department content leader and a member of the instructional leadership team. She was a co-applicant and recipient of the United States Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Award for Sustainability Education in the 2023–2024 school year. She has participated in district-level science assessment review work and served on a Louisiana Department of Education LEAP item review committee. Ms. Weathersby has served as a Teacher Leader at her school for three years and is a first-time state Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Michelle Webb**

Mrs. Webb earned a Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education from Louisiana Tech University. Mrs. Webb has been and is still a part of the School Instructional Leadership Team as the Kindergarten Mentor Teacher in Desoto Parish. She is a kindergarten classroom teacher and serves as an experienced mentor teacher for a resident teacher candidate from Louisiana Tech University. Mrs. Webb has been teaching in Desoto Parish for nine years. She was a part of the District Social Studies team that attended the 2023 Teacher Leader Summit. She has also worked with her Master Teacher on campus and at the district level

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to provide professional learning for the teachers in her school about the new Louisiana Social Studies Standards. Mrs. Webb attended a training that focused on unpacking units and collaborated with teachers from grades three to eight. This is Mrs. Webb's first year to be a Teacher Leader Advisor.

### **Zandria Westbrooks**

Zandria L. Westbrooks holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business from Grambling State University. She also earned an Alternate Teacher Certification in both Special Education and Secondary English. Ms. Westbrooks currently serves as the Instructional Coach for Bienville Parish Schools, where she has held this leadership role for two years. She brings fifteen years of experience to the field of education. Throughout her career, Ms. Westbrooks has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to academic excellence and equity, serving as a top-performing English teacher and an unwavering advocate for students receiving special education services. Her instructional leadership is grounded in evidence-based practices and a deep belief in teacher growth, student voice, and inclusive learning environments. She has served on various district committees focused on literacy improvement, instructional coaching, and special education supports. In addition to her school-based leadership, Ms. Westbrooks has contributed to local and regional teams that reviewed instructional materials and aligned content to state standards. She has also served as a Teacher Leader, mentoring educators, facilitating professional development, and leading collaborative planning sessions across grade levels. Ms. Westbrooks is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, where she uses her educational expertise to uplift surrounding communities through service and outreach.

### **DeEtte Wick**

DeEtte Wick earned a Master of Education degree with a reading specialist certification from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana. Mrs. Wick is a gifted and talented teacher for Lincoln Parish Schools. She serves three schools and teaches students grades 3-8. She was a sixth through eighth-grade middle school English and Louisiana history teacher at A.E. Phillips Laboratory School for 13 years. Before teaching in Louisiana, she taught fourth and fifth grade in Roseville, Minnesota for four years. During her time in Minnesota, she worked for the district to embed standards-based assessments into the classroom curriculum. She also provided professional learning for fifth-grade teachers on standard alignment in classroom assessments for fifth-grade math and social studies. During her time at A.E. Phillips, Mrs. Wick has represented her school as a Teacher Leader for five years. As a Teacher Leader, she has redelivered material to teachers at her school as well as provided professional learning for other parish schools. In the spring of 2020, she completed the certification process to become a Content Leader for middle school English language arts. As a Content Leader, she has led professional learning days on how to use the Louisiana Guidebooks effectively. As a member of the Louisiana Reading Association, she recognized the need for more professional learning for middle school teachers. In 2015 she became a presenter and delivered a session on engaging middle school students using the Louisiana Guidebooks. She was a member of the English Item Review Committee for state testing analyzing state testing questions and data for standard alignment.

### **Jennifer Williams**

Jennifer C. Williams possesses over three decades of experience as an educator, having served in both public and private school environments in Louisiana. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with a minor in science from Louisiana State University. Ms. Williams has dedicated the past fifteen years to her role as the Lower School science department chair at Isidore Newman School, where she also teaches science and STEM to students in grades second through fourth for the past twenty-five

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years. Over her career, Ms. Williams has taught a variety of subjects, including science, STEM, reading, and social studies, within Newman and Plaquemines Parish Public Schools. From 2021 to 2024, she assumed the role of Division Director for Early Childhood-Elementary Science Teaching and serves on the Executive Board of the National Science Teaching Association where she helped to create and review programming for conferences and NSTA Press. Additionally, she has contributed her expertise as a reviewer for the Best STEM Booklist in collaboration with the Children's Book Council from 2020 through 2023. Ms. Williams has participated in professional programs such as the Louisiana Department of Education's Coastal Fellowship Program during the 2021-2022 school year and as a Teacher Leader Advisor since 2022. She has made several conference presentations for the National Science Teaching Association, and Teacher Leader Summit, and has presented at the National Academies of Sciences meeting on Science and Engineering in Preschool Through Elementary Grades. She has also authored several journal articles, blogs, and a book on science and STEM education for young children. Her contributions to education have been recognized through esteemed awards, including the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching in 2007, the PBS Teachers Innovation Award Winner in 2009, and recognition as the Outstanding Elementary Science Teacher by the Louisiana Science Teachers Association.

### **April Winstead**

April Winstead earned a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Science Education with a concentration in General Science and Biology from Louisiana Tech University. Mrs. Winstead also received National Board Certification in Adolescence and Young Adulthood Science. She has her Science Content Leader Microcredential certification. Mrs. Winstead has taught in Louisiana for twenty-nine years. She began at Woodlawn Junior High in West Monroe, Louisiana, where she taught earth science and gifted physical science for six years. For the remaining twenty-three years, she has been at Ruston High School. There she has taught mainly biology, AP biology, and Dual Anatomy and Physiology as Louisiana Tech adjunct faculty. Currently and for the last three years, Mrs. Winstead spends half of the day in the classroom teaching biology, and then the other half of the day she serves as the Lincoln Parish Science Facilitator where she works with coaching and supporting K-12 science teachers and science learning in Lincoln Parish. Mrs. Winstead has served on The LEAP 2025 Biology Standard Setting Committee as well as the LEAP 2025 Biology Content and Bias Item Review Committee. Mrs. Winstead worked as a trainer for the National Math and Science Initiative for three years. Mrs. Winstead was a Finalist for the 2016 Louisiana Teacher of the Year. This will be her second year serving as a Teacher Leader.

### **Betty Wise**

Betty Wise is a passionate Social Studies fourth-grade teacher at Jennings Elementary. She attended McNeese State University and received a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. She also holds a Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration from Columbia Southern University. Currently, she is pursuing a teaching certification through iTeach Louisiana. Before her career as a teacher, she served my community in law enforcement as the city of Jennings Jail Warden. She served as the President of the Jefferson Davis Parish Association of Educators, and she was also a part of the Louisiana Department of Education item review board this summer. Her proficiency on LEAP for the 2022-2023 school year was over 60% proficiency. The passion she has for teaching promotes a positive impact on the students' mind growth that pushes students to reach their highest potential. Her passion for teaching stems from my desire to make a positive impact on young minds and help students reach their full potential. She believes every student is unique and can succeed with the right guidance, learning environment, and support. Promoting collaboration and the respectful relationships she has with students, parents, and fellow educators

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creates an effective and positive learning community. She believes in fostering collaborative, and respectful relationships with students, parents, and fellow educators to create an effective positive learning community. She continues to grow professionally with her love for reading educational literature, attending professional development workshops, visiting museums and historical sites, and staying updated with the latest teaching methodologies. I enjoy reading educational literature, attending professional development workshops, visiting museums, visiting historical sites, and staying updated with the latest teaching methodologies.

## **Raven Woods**

Raven Woods earned a Master of Art in Teaching in Secondary Mathematics from McNeese State University and a Master of Education in Educational Technology Leadership from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Education in K-12 Educational Administration. Ms. Woods has been a secondary mathematics teacher for seven years, currently teaching sixth-grade mathematics in Lafayette Parish School System. Previously, she taught seventh-grade mathematics in Acadia Parish. Ms. Woods helps with curriculum implementation within her school, serves as math department head, acts as a mentor to new math teachers on her campus, and has delivered professional learning at the district level. This is Ms. Woods' first year as a Teacher Leader Advisor.

## **Megan Wright**

Megan Wright holds a Master of Criminal Justice with a concentration in Juvenile Studies from Grambling State University. She currently serves as the fourth grade English Language Arts and Social Studies teacher at Math, Science, and Arts Academy East in Iberville Parish. In addition to her teaching role, Mrs. Wright is the lead sponsor of the Elementary Beta Club. She brings five years of English teaching experience, having previously taught sixth grade ELA in Iberville Parish and served for three years in Ascension Parish, where her students consistently demonstrated significant growth on the LEAP assessment. Mrs. Wright is an active member of the Louisiana Department of Education's K-5 ELA Standards Review Committee and has contributed to the review of district English assessments for grades four through six for the past five years. She was selected to attend the Teacher Leader Summit last year and has participated in multiple English and Social Studies curriculum trainings, which she has redelivered at the school level to support instructional growth.

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