



Classroom Instruction that works with English Language Learners Developing Professional Developers Team

Krista Anderson

Elkhorn Public Schools
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Krista is currently employed by Elkhorn Public Schools as a K-12 ELL teacher. She previously worked for the Nebraska Department of Education as an Education Specialist (Poverty and LEP Plans). She has teaching experience in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary settings. She is a certified trainer of Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) and Six Traits Writing. She earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, a master's degree from Doane College, an ESL endorsement and bilingual education (English/Spanish) endorsement from the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Penny Businga

ESU 13 area
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Penny has retired as Director of Staff Development for Educational Service Unit #13 in the panhandle of Nebraska. She is committed to increasing the number of teachers who can better serve English language learners. She taught ESL courses for Wayne State College, coordinates the ESL consortium for the region, and focuses on strong vocabulary instruction at all levels. Penny has a master's degree in Elementary Education and additional endorsements in Assessment, English as a Second Language, and High Ability Learners.

Kate Damgaard

Papillion-La Vista Public Schools
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Kate is the District ELL Coordinator for Papillion-La Vista Public Schools. In addition to program coordination, she teaches high school level ELL students at Papillion-La Vista South High School. Kate earned her bachelor's degree at the University of NE at Kearney with majors in French and Secondary Education with a supplementary endorsement in ELL. She has as attained her Masters in Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Instruction, and Reading from Doane College. This is her tenth year of teaching students in ELL programs.

Brooke David

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Brooke is a Title III consultant (English Language Acquisition) at the Nebraska Department of Education. She taught at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the Intensive English Program (PIESL) as well as in the Indigenous Roots Teacher Education Program (ROOTS). She lived in Boston for seven years where she worked in various capacities in the field of ELL including high school ELL, Adult Education, and family literacy. Her first ELL teaching position was at Omaha Benson. Brooke received a BS in secondary education with endorsements in History and ESL from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She also earned an EdM and CAGS in Literacy and Language Education from Boston University.



Kristie Dugan

Lexington Middle School
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Kristie Dugan is an Instructional Coach at Lexington Public Schools in Lexington, Nebraska. She has spent a great deal of time working with ELL instructors and directors to align curriculum, materials and assessments. She has also provided several professional development trainings for ELL instructional practices in and out of the district. Throughout her educational profession, she has taught in multiple grade levels and in several different districts. Kristie has had the opportunity to share her passion for quality education in a variety of classroom settings and grade levels. She has also worked with Dual Language, SEI and ELL programs. Kristie's education includes a BA in Elementary Education, a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction, and an Endorsement in Administration.

Erica Earley

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Erica Earley is currently the ELL coordinator for Columbus Public Schools. Her first experience teaching English as a second Language was at a private school in Japan in 2007. While in Japan, she taught English to Japanese students of various ages and English language abilities. She has also taught Spanish at North Platte High School and was a teacher at a Boys Town Day School for two years. Her education includes a BA in English and Psychology, endorsements in ELL and Spanish, and a MA in Literacy, Language and Culture from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Gail Ellison

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Gail is currently teaching English Language Learners for Ralston High School. She teaches Reading, Language Development, and Sheltered English. Gail has an MA in Reading from Concordia University, an MA in English Education from West Virginia University, and a BA in English and German from West Liberty State College. Her teaching career includes middle and high schools in West Virginia, the island of Guam, and Nebraska, and university institutions of West Virginia University, University of Maryland, Peru State College and Metropolitan Community college. Gail and her husband have two daughters.

Pam Erixon

Holling Heights Elementary –
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Pam is the District ELL Lead Teacher for the Millard Public School System. She currently works with ELL students at the elementary level. In addition, she supports ELL teachers throughout the district both at the elementary and secondary levels and provides staff development and coaching to classroom teachers. Pam has bachelor's degrees from Kean University in New Jersey and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. In addition she has a Master's Degree from Doane College and endorsements in ELL, early childhood education, and gifted education.



Jamie Garner

ESU 15
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Jamie Garner is employed at ESU 15 and does a variety of job duties which include: ELL coordinator, Migrant Director, Staff Development, and Transition Counselor. She also serves on Nebraska's Central Brain Injury School Support Team. She has been in education for 30 years and held positions as a teacher and school counselor. Jamie's diversity in working with children has been an asset in the rural area in which she works. She earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees at Chadron State College.

Dave Gibbons

Schuyler Central High School
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Dave is the Curriculum/School Improvement and Student Services Coordinator at Schuyler Community Schools. He taught Spanish and English as a Second Language at Schuyler Central High School for twelve years before stepping into his current role. He is currently a doctoral student at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Jewel Hoxworth

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Jewel is an ELL instructor at Bridgeport Public Schools. She holds a bachelor's degree from Kearney State College and an ESL endorsement from Wayne State College. In addition to working with K-12 students, she teaches adult ESL classes.

Gulnora Isaeva

Omaha Public Schools
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Gulnora is the secondary ESL teacher trainer for Omaha Public Schools. She plans and leads the district-wide Secondary ESL Curriculum Day and ESL Steering trainings, provides training for new ESL teachers, teaches a graduate course for the ESL endorsement program, and works with a team of 50 teachers. She is responsible for organizing and leading ESL curriculum writing teams. She has taught various high school ESL courses. Gulnora received a bachelor's degree from Fergana State University in Uzbekistan. From the University of Nebraska-Omaha, she earned a master's degree in Improvement of Curriculum and Instruction and an ESL endorsement.

Michelle Keszler

ESU 13
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Michelle is currently employed as a Staff Development Coordinator with ESU 13 in western Nebraska. She has experience as a teacher at a variety of levels as well as a district assessment and curriculum coordinator. Michelle has a Master of Science in Education from Chadron State College as well as a Master of Arts from the University of Nebraska. Michelle has endorsements in Elementary Education and ESL.

Mary Lamken

Lincoln Elementary School –
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Mary is currently the ELL Department Chair for Hastings Public Schools. She is an elementary ELL teacher for Abraham Lincoln Elementary School. Mary graduated from University of Nebraska with a BS in Education. Her primary endorsement is Elementary Education with an additional ELL endorsement from University of Nebraska-Kearney.



Amanda Levos

Grand Island Public Schools
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Amanda is the ELL and Migrant coordinator at Grand Island Public Schools. Prior to stepping into this position, she taught ELL and history at Grand Island Senior High for seven years. She provides training and support for the implementation of Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) within GIPS. She is also involved in providing cultural proficiency professional learning in a variety of ways. She holds a bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with endorsements in Grades 7-12 Social Sciences and ESL and has earned a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from Doane College. Amanda is committed to providing teachers and staff the knowledge, skills, and tools to support ELLs and their successes in school and beyond.

Wendy McCarty

University of Nebraska-Kearney
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Wendy teaches in the Teacher Education Department at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and directs the Transitional Certification Program. Her previous experience includes working as a classroom teacher, substance abuse prevention coordinator, college faculty, grant director and academic advisor for first-generation minority students, and workshop facilitator.

Julie Myers

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Julie is currently the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for Lexington Public Schools. For the past 20 years, Julie has worked with Lexington's English language learners as a classroom teacher, Dual Language & ELL Coordinator as well as an elementary principal. Julie has been fortunate to take part in state wide training for ELL students through the Nebraska Department of Education's ELL Leadership Team. Julie received a BA in Elementary and Special Education from Wayne State College. Julie holds a master's degree in Special Education from Wayne State College as well endorsements for English Language Learners K-12 and K-6 Administration from the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Xochitl Naranjo

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Xochitl Naranjo has been teaching K-4 ELL at Washington Elementary in Norfolk since graduating from UNL in 2007. She was born in Mexico, and went to school both there and in the United States. Therefore, she understands the educational systems and the cultures from both countries, and is bilingual. Xochitl enjoys working with ELL students, and is always looking for opportunities to expand her own learning in order to benefit her students. She is also an advocate for strong positive communication between families and school.



Allyson Olson

So. Sioux City Community
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Allyson is the Director of Secondary Education for the South Sioux City Schools and coordinates the district's ESL program for secondary education. Allyson was previously the district's lead teacher for At-Risk education and has served as middle school Assistant Principal and Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment before a reorganization created her current position. Her education includes a BS Ed from the University of Missouri, an MS Ed from Drake University, an Ed Sp. from Wayne State College, and she is currently working toward an Ed.D. from the University of Nebraska.

Nancy Rowch

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Nancy retired as the Director of the Title III (English Language Acquisition) Office at the Nebraska Department of Education after 35 years in that position. Nancy provided training across the state on topics related to the education of English Language Learners. She continues to teach courses such as methods for ESL, second language acquisition and diversity issues as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Nebraska and Nebraska Wesleyan. She was a 5th grade bilingual teacher in San Antonio. Nancy holds a BS from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Spanish Education and an MA from the University of Texas at San Antonio in Bilingual Teacher Education.

Laura Salem

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Laura is the ELL Curriculum Specialist for Lincoln Public Schools. Over the past 15 years, she has served as a secondary ELL coordinator, ELL team leader, and an ELL teacher in the district. She has also served as a middle school resource teacher. Laura holds an ESL endorsement and completed her administrative certification in 2013. She is currently working toward a doctorate in Educational Administration.

Nancy Sivils

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Nancy is a K-12 ELL teacher with Bellevue Public Schools. In her role as ELL teacher, she supports students and teachers in the classroom. She also provides training for teachers on ELL topics. Nancy Sivils is a 1996 graduate of Northwest Missouri State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in Education. She earned her ESL endorsement and Master's Degree in Literacy from Concordia University-Nebraska.

Debra Skokan

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Debra is a K-4 ELL teacher at Washington Elementary in Fremont, NE. She also works with Midland University to coordinate evening adult English classes at Washington Elementary. Debra earned a BA in Elementary Education from Midland Lutheran College and a Master of Science in Education with a concentration in ESL from Wayne State College.



Cheryl Sparks

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Cheryl is the Elementary ESL teacher trainer for the Omaha Public Schools. She provides ESL training for new teachers, conducts district trainings, teaches a graduate course for the ESL endorsement program and works with a team of 65 ESL teachers. She has worked with students in grades K-6 in both an inclusion setting and as an ESL resource teacher in a pullout program. Cheryl received a BS from Iowa State University, a master's degree in Urban Education, and ESL Endorsement at Kansas State University.

Michelle Story-Kohl

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Michelle is an ELL instructional coach with Lincoln Public Schools. She develops coaching partnerships with general education and ELL teachers across the district and provides ELL professional development at the building and district levels. Michelle has been with Lincoln Public Schools as an ELL teacher and instructional coach for 16 years. She earned her BS in Elementary Education and an ELL endorsement from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Wendy Wendt

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Wendy works for the Elkhorn Public School District as the District ELL Coordinator. She also serves as a K-12 ELL teacher, working collaboratively with classroom teachers. Wendy has several years' experience teaching and has provided services to school districts in both Kansas and Nebraska. She graduated from the University of Kansas with a Bachelor of Science in Education and a minor in Spanish. Wendy continued her education by earning a Master of Science in Elementary Education with an endorsement in ESL from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Cindy West

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Cindy began teaching ESL for Lincoln Public Schools in the fall of 1981, following her first experience with refugee populations teaching English in a Vietnamese refugee camp in Thailand. During her tenure with LPS, she served as an ESL/ELL teacher at elementary, middle, and high school, as well as Secondary ELL Coordinator for the district and ELL Instructional Coach before her retirement in 2012. As an administrator, Cindy provided leadership in the design, development, and implementation of the ELL Curriculum as well as coordinating and providing in-service at the building, district, and state level. Cindy has also presented at national ELL conferences and taught an ESL Theory course at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her involvement with NDE has included participation in the Nebraska ELL Leadership Institute, serving as a member of the ELLI Design Team, participating in the writing of *Rule 15, A Guide for Implementation*, and functioning as a member of the NDE Development of Professional Developers (DPD). Cindy currently provides teacher training for ESUs and various districts in the state as well as serving as a consultant.



Jennifer Wickard

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Jennifer is the ELL Team Leader at Lincoln Northeast High School in Lincoln, Nebraska. She has spent the past 10 years as an ELL teacher in Nebraska for grades 9 - 12. In 2007, Jennifer received a bachelor's degree in Middle Level Education from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, with an emphasis in English, Social Studies as well as a K - 12 ELL endorsement. In May of 2010, she received a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Doane College.

Terri Schuster

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Terri is the Director of Title III (English Language Acquisition) at the Nebraska Department of Education. She has been in the fields of Elementary Education and ELL for over 20 years, including serving as an ELL Team Leader for Lincoln Public Schools. She currently coordinates state English language proficiency testing and provides professional development and technical assistance to schools on ELL programs. She received a BS in Elementary Education at Chaminade University of Honolulu and a Master of Education, in Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. She is endorsed in Elementary Education and ESL K-12.

Jane Hill

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As a principal consultant for McREL, Jane consults and trains teachers and administrators nationally and internationally. She has worked in the areas of second language acquisition and special education for over 35 years. Jane has published articles in Language Magazine, The Journal of Staff Development, The School Administrator, Leadership Information, and Phi Delta Kappan. She co-authored Classroom Instruction That Works with English Language Learners (ASCD, 2006), Classroom Instruction That Works with English Language Learners Facilitator's Guide and Participant's Workbook (ASCD, 2008), Classroom Instruction That Works with English Language Learners, 2nd edition (ASCD, 2013). Jane holds a BA in Theatre Arts/Speech from Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, and a MS in Communication Disorders from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado.