



Christina Jakubas

Ms. Jakubas has been an English teacher at Neuqua Valley High School for eight years. She has served as a junior level leader and has been a district curriculum writer for the past three years. Currently, she is a curriculum lead for the district, overseeing the current CCSS rewriting alignment for the English Honors and AP levels. Ms. Jakubas received her undergrad from the University of Illinois at Chicago and has earned an M.A. in British American literature from Northern Illinois University. She is currently earning a reading endorsement from Lewis University. Her extracurricular involvement includes being the adviser for the yearbook journalism course for six years, as a co-sponsor of the Gay-Straight Alliance for eight years, and as an adviser in a Mawi Leadership Academy. In all aspects of her teaching, Ms. Jakubas strives to provide an educational environment which will support all students as they develop into critical thinkers, readers, and writers.

Michelle Jett

Ms. Jett is the Education and Training Manager for Illinois Safe Schools Alliance. She has been with the organization for 3 years and works closely with schools to provide professional development for faculty and staff to make Illinois classrooms safe and inclusive for LGBTQ youth. Prior to working at the Alliance Ms. Jett was the Executive Director of a domestic violence program. She is based in Champaign, Illinois.

Peggy McGuire

Ms. McGuire serves as the Executive Director for Project HELP in Naperville. Project HELP is an organization that serves families with children birth to age 12 with home visits and Parent Education Workshops. A research based home visiting model is used, as well as the evidenced based curriculum, Active Parenting. This service is offered throughout DuPage and Aurora. Ms. McGuire became the Executive Director of Project HELP one year ago. Under her direction, the Parent Education Workshops are now offered in Spanish. They have been widely received across DuPage. Project HELP will serve 100 parents with these workshops by the end of the year. Prior to coming on board with Project HELP, Ms. McGuire served as Coordinator of Programs for DuPage County's Regional Office of Education, Parents as Teacher's Program. She was responsible for six school districts home visitation program for at-risk families. She also taught the program at Fenton High School in Bensenville to the students who were pregnant and or parenting. She also provided home visits to the students. Ms. McGuire held that position for 13 years. During her time as the Coordinator, 90-95% of all families enrolled were Hispanic or of Asian descent. Prior to her work with the Regional Office of Education, Ms. McGuire was the Director of Foster Care for a national adoption agency for 12 years. She comes with over 23 years of experience working with diverse family structures and a passion for strengthening families.

Patrick Nolten

Dr. Nolten is the Executive Director for Research and Assessment for Indian Prairie School District 204 for the last ten years. His role includes linking assessments to curriculum and instruction and developing a systematic approach for research, evaluation and assessment. He consistently works to conduct statistical analysis of instructional programs, compile and maintain data reports on programs, and coordinates and interprets assessment criteria for student learning. His background as a psychologist, staff development coach, assistant professor and postdoctoral fellow has allowed him to spearhead research and conduct developmental analysis in education and psychological testing. Dr. Nolten earned his doctorate in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and his Master of Science Education degree from the same institution, and a second Master of Science degree from Northern Illinois University.



Jen Rowe

Ms. Rowe serves as Dean of Students at Metea Valley High School, and been at Metea since its creation six years ago. At Metea, Ms. Rowe works on creating diverse learning opportunities for students such as AAHM programs, Latino Heritage Month events as well as a day of service for the Dr. King holiday. Prior to coming to Metea, she worked as an English teacher at Waubonsie Valley High School, Loyola Academy and also Hales Franciscan High School in Hyde Park. Ms. Rowe is a National Board Certified Teacher and holds a MA in Curriculum and Instruction from Loyola University.

Savannah Smith

Mrs. Smith has been a French and Spanish teacher at Waubonsie Valley High School since 2004. She has a B.A. in the Teaching of French with an endorsement in Spanish from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She earned her M.A. in Educational Administration from Concordia University Chicago in 2010. Savannah has been the faculty advisor for the Gay Straight Alliance at WVHS since 2009. The GSA is a club open to all students seeking a safe and supportive environment to discuss issues facing LGBT students at home and at school. In addition to weekly meetings, each year the students plan and implement the "Day of Silence". This nationwide event aims to demonstrate that there are students who feel their voices are silenced by not being able to express their true identities.

Michael Treptow

Mr. Michael Treptow has worked in Indian Prairie School District for the past twenty years as a School Social Worker. He currently works at Still Middle School where he has been for sixteen years. Mr. Treptow also holds the position of Social Work Coordinator for Indian Prairie School District. Mr. Treptow is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). He is currently a member of the following Committees: Professional Development Committee, BYOT, Power of Choice, and Advisory Committee. Mr. Treptow has also worked closely with related service personnel in developing and implementing evidenced based interventions to better address social/emotional concerns district wide. He has also assisted in working with related service personnel in developing more effective strategies in progress monitoring student's social/emotional needs. Mr. Treptow has a BSW in Social Work from Valparaiso University, a Master of Social Work from Aurora University, and a Master of Arts in Educational Administration.

Pam Witt

Ms. Pam Witt has been a Social Worker at Indian Prairie School District for the past 18 years and has been in her current position at Neuqua Valley High School for 12 years. Ms. Witt is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) as well as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC). She is currently a member of the following Committees: Building Equity Team; MAWI Learning Committee; and Professional Development Committee. She is also a member of the Partnership in Prevention Consortium of Social Workers which includes both Naperville Districts 203 and 204, and Wheaton District 200. Among her present duties, she is responsible for providing social work services to approximately 1000 students which includes: crisis intervention with individual students and school-wide as necessary; running topic-based groups; individual counseling with students; co-facilitating classroom discussions as requested by teachers; co-teaching social skills with emotionally disabled students and program development. Ms. Witt has a BA in Psychology from Northern Illinois University and a Master of Social (MSW) from University of Illinois at Chicago.