

Speaker and Panel Member Biographies

Spring 2024 IACTE Conference

Mike Beranek, President, Iowa State Education Association

Mike is a 30-year veteran teacher. He was elected president of the Iowa State Education Association in April 2018 by member delegates at the annual Delegate Assembly. They reelected Mike for a second term in 2021.

Mike served as vice president of the ISEA from 2012-2015. Mike has also served as the ISEA's representative on the NEA Board of Directors 2009 to 2012 and has been active in the association as a member of the ISEA Executive Board. He is a member of the Commission on Educator Leadership and Compensation, Iowa Department of Education State Assessment Committee, Iowa Department Teacher of the Year selection committee and serves on the Comprehensive Center Network Region 9 Board.

Mike was the proud recipient of the Disney American Teacher Award for 2001, being cited for his innovative classroom projects and activities. Mike received his Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education with Preschool from Iowa State University in 1984, and a Bachelor of Education in Elementary Education from Iowa State University in 1988.

Dr. Brad Buck, Superintendent, Waukee Community School District

Dr. Brad Buck serves as superintendent of Waukee Community School District. Waukee CSD is currently the fifth-largest school district in Iowa, serving more than 13,300 students from Clive, Urbandale, Waukee, and West Des Moines, as well as open enrolled students from other communities outside the 56 square miles of our district boundaries.

Dr. Buck previously served as superintendent of the Cedar Rapids Community School District, director of the Iowa Department of Education, superintendent of Saydel Community School District, and associate/assistant superintendent in Waukee CSD, as well as a principal and teacher.

Krystal Colbert, Iowa Teacher of the Year 2023-24, SE Polk Community Schools

Krystal Colbert teaches second-grade students at Mitchellville Elementary in Mitchellville, Iowa. She has 17 years of teaching experience. She began her teaching career at Ballard West Elementary and has spent the past 15 years teaching for the Southeast Polk School District. Krystal earned her Bachelor of Science in early childhood special education, with an endorsement in reading from Iowa State University. After teaching for five years at the elementary level, she received her Master of Arts in education from Viterbo University. As a lifelong learner, Krystal is back in the classroom as a student pursuing a graduate certificate in Teacher Leadership through Northwestern College.

In addition to teaching, Krystal is a Model Teacher in her district and serves as a mentor teacher to colleagues. She plans and implements professional development opportunities as a member of the Teacher Leadership Committee. As a mentor teacher, she also works closely with student teachers and practicum teachers who are pursuing a degree in education. Krystal also serves as a 7 Habits Lighthouse Team member, where she guides, plans and implements professional learning for her colleagues. As the 2023 Iowa Teacher of the Year, Krystal has traveled the country and state serving as an ambassador of education. She particularly enjoys working with emerging educators and sharing the joys of being a classroom teacher.

In the classroom, Krystal prides herself on the importance of building a positive and caring classroom community where all students feel loved, respected, accepted, and valued. She believes in the power of instilling a growth mindset in all of her students, helping them reframe challenges and obstacles as opportunities for growth and success. She is passionate about student-centered learning and collaborative problem-solving. When not in the classroom, Krystal enjoys spending time with her family and supporting her children in their various activities.

Matt Cretsinger, Director of Special Services, Marshalltown

Matt Cretsinger has been the Director of Special Services for the Marshalltown Community School District since July 1, 2012. He is responsible for overseeing many programs and services, including special education, 504 services, Social-Emotional Behavioral Health, school-based mental health, the Therapeutic Classrooms program, school counseling, School Resource Specialists, School Nursing services, Pre-K programming for children with disabilities, community partnerships, and Medicaid services. He also serves as the Foster Care Coordinator for the District.

Mr. Cretsinger has been an educator since 2004 and has been serving in leadership positions since 2008. He has previous experience serving students and families in a variety of other roles, including Team Leader of Behavioral Supports, Program Assistant for Special Education, Professional Learning & Leadership Consultant, and School Psychologist. Mr. Cretsinger also has experience as an adjunct college instructor, a Therapist for a mental health center, a Program Director for a psychiatric medical institute for children (PMIC), and a Mental Health Counselor for a residential treatment setting.

Mr. Cretsinger has a master's degree and a specialist degree in Educational Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Mr. Cretsinger also holds a master's degree and specialist degree in Educational Leadership from Drake University and holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Simpson College. He is also an inaugural graduate of the Collaborative for Academic & Social Emotional Learning (CASEL) Fellowship and is a Certified Trainer in the Collaborative Problem Solving approach.

Terry Gladfelter, Executive Director, Professional Educators of Iowa

Terry Gladfelter, an education veteran, has been an integral part of Professional

Educators of Iowa (PEI) since 2017 and was recently appointed as the Executive Director. With over 40 years in education, Terry's journey started as a band director in Philadelphia and Broward County, Florida, transitioning into administration in Broward County before relocating to Iowa in 2002.

In Iowa, Terry's educational work led him to the Southeast Warren School District and Victory Christian Academy. Earning a B.S. in Music Education from West Chester University, an M.S. in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University, and postgraduate studies at the University of Northern Iowa, his commitment to education is evident.

Terry Gladfelter's wealth of experience positions him as a qualified leader for PEI, dedicated to providing support and protection for those in the education sector. As Executive Director, he is poised to guide the organization forward, ensuring its continued success in the ever-changing landscape of education.

Dr. Marty Herron, Executive Vice President, Faith Baptist Bible College

Dr. Marty Herron is a graduate of Bob Jones University and of the Camp Director's Institute of THE WILDS. He spent several years traveling throughout the US with a revival team before moving to Northland Camp and Conference Center in 1982. While at Northland, Dr. Herron served in a variety of capacities including Camp Director, Dean of Students, and Vice President of Student Affairs, along with teaching courses in the College.

In July 2000, the Lord called Dr. and Mrs. Herron and their family to Guam as the Senior Pastor of Harvest Baptist Church and Harvest Ministries. Harvest is a multi-faceted ministry in a poly-cultural island in the Pacific.

In October of 2018, the Herrons embarked on their third ministry when God called them to serve as Executive Vice President of Faith Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary in Ankeny, IA. The burden of this move has been to help train ministers to go out into full time ministry internationally and take the Word to the World.

Dr. Herron and Tami have been happily married since 1979 with four grown, married children and sixteen grandchildren with four more in Heaven.

Justin Jeffs, Principal, Mitchell Elementary, Ames

Jeff spent 12 years as an educator in an inner city Houston School District. While in Houston, he was a 3rd grade teacher, 4th grade teacher, Reading Interventionist, Instructional Coach, and finally an Assistant Principal prior to getting his current principal job in Ames. This is his 12th year as principal in Ames.

His focus as a principal in Ames has been around culture/climate, Instructional strategies /

routines around best practices, PLC's, and making data actionable. This past year, his Title 1 building scored in the top 1% of all K-12 buildings in the State of Iowa based on the Iowa School Performance Profile. This score is based heavily on individual growth in reading/math, ISASP proficiency, and survey results measuring how safe and supported students feel while at school.

Jeff is currently finishing his Doctorate in Education with my Superintendent Licensure. His goals for next steps in leadership would be to attain a superintendent position.

Rhonda Nelson, Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Coordinator, Bettendorf

Rhonda Nelson, M.S., C-SLDI, serves as the Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Coordinator for the Bettendorf Community School District. She brings a rich background in educational leadership with a focus on literacy, curriculum development, and teacher training. Currently pursuing a Doctorate of Education in Reading Science from Mount St. Joseph University, she is dedicated to advancing the science of reading to improve educational outcomes and literacy for all learners. As a LETRS District Facilitator, she has successfully initiated and designed professional development strategic planning, directly impacting the district's vision for literacy.

In these roles, she focuses on universal instruction improvement through structured literacy practices, technical assistance to school leadership, and data-informed instructional strategies. Her efforts are aimed at closing achievement gaps and promoting equitable, inclusive education practices. Rhonda holds a Master of Science degree in Instructional Design and Technology. This background has proven to be instrumental in influencing district-level change in Multi Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). She also earned a Dyslexia Certificate from Mount St. Joseph University and maintains a Structured Literacy Dyslexia Interventionist Certification from the Center for Effective Reading Instruction. Her research interests include phonemic awareness, rapid automatized naming (RAN), MTSS, and implementation science.

Dr. Robert Olson, Superintendent, Gilmore City-Bradgate and West Bend-Mallard School Districts

Dr. Robert Olson has been an educator for 45 years and served as a teacher (3), coach (7), and administrator (42). After teaching and coaching at Dysart-Geneseo (1976-79) for three years, he attended graduate school full-time at the University of Northern Iowa and served as a graduate assistant in the school of Administration and Counseling. Before finishing his master's in administration degree, he accepted a 7-12 principal position (Wellsburg: 1979-1984) that also allowed him to also teach and coach. He then served as high school principal at Clarion Community School District (1984-1989) for five years before becoming superintendent for both Clarion and Goldfield School Districts. While in Clarion, he served twice as a shared superintendent and facilitated two district reorganizations (Clarion-Goldfield and Clarion-Goldfield-Dows) (1989-2020).

Bob continues to serve on the faculty of the Iowa Superintendent Financial Leadership Consortium (ISFLC) after retirement to help superintendents and school business officials to develop and present school budgets. In 2022, Bob began serving as associate with EdWise, LLC that conducts employment search services for school districts, primarily for building principals and superintendents. He is currently serving as an interim superintendent of the West Bend-Mallard CSD and Gilmore City-Bradgate CSD.

Bob earned his Doctorate from Drake University in 1989, his Superintendent endorsement (1984) and Master's (1980) from the University of Northern Iowa, and Bachelor of Arts at Augustana College at Rock Island, Illinois in 1976 where he was a three-sport athlete and coach.

Mrs. Ashley Skinner, 2023 Herzog Foundation Teacher of the Year, Grand View Christian School

Ashley Skinner is a teacher and curriculum assistant with experience spanning over 15 years in education. Ashley graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Faith Baptist Bible College with honors and Reading, Language Arts, and Middle School Generalist endorsements. She is a Google Certified Educator and currently teaches eighth-grade English, sixth-grade Science, and a study skills class at Grand View Christian School.

Her experience extends beyond the classroom, as she actively contributes to curriculum development, selection, and ordering, as well as technology integration, and mentorship. Ashley has served on her school's Building Leadership Team, Superintendent's Council, and technology teams and has been the teacher-leader of her Professional Learning Communities. She has enjoyed being a cooperating teacher for six student teachers and mentoring new teachers in her building. She also directed her school's high school plays and musicals, aided in the research and development of the building's block schedule, and pioneered a partial-flipped classroom, which her English department implements for grammar instruction. She has earned recognition as a Teacher of the Year at Des Moines Christian School and is one of 12 nationally chosen Christian Teachers of the Year for the Herzog Foundation.

Ashley lives in the country with her husband, two young boys (ages four and two), and 14 baby chicks. She enjoys serving on her church's worship music team, trying new recipes, and keeping her active little boys alive.

Dr. Lisa Remy, Executive Director, School Administrators of Iowa

Lisa Remy, Ed.D., earned her bachelor's in education, master's in Spanish teaching, superintendent's certification, and doctorate in educational administration from the University of Northern Iowa.

Lisa began her career in education as a Spanish teacher in Hudson and later served as high school principal. She moved to the West Des Moines Community Schools in 2000, serving as associate principal at Valley High School, principal of Indian Hills Junior High, associate superintendent of Human Resources and superintendent of West Des Moines Community Schools. As of July 2022, Lisa began serving as the executive director of School Administrators of Iowa.

The Iowa Association of School Boards presented Remy with its Better Boardmanship Superintendent's Award of Honor, and the New Tech Network has recognized her for the work the district did with project-based learning. Remy has been a member of West Des Moines Rotary; a board member of Junior Achievement, the West Des Moines Chamber, the West Des Moines Community Schools Foundation, the Greater Des Moines Partnership Talent Development board, the Youth Justice Initiative Advisory Council; a board member of the Greater Des Moines Partnership; vice president of the Global K-12 Education Research Association; and a volunteer with United Way's Day of Caring. In February 2018, she was named one of the "17 People Making a Difference from 2017" by the Des Moines' Western Suburbs Business Journal.

McKenzie Snow - Director, Iowa Department of Education

Gov. Kim Reynolds appointed McKenzie Snow to lead the Iowa Department of Education beginning June 26, 2023.

Director Snow is committed to ensuring all children have access to a high-quality education that inspires them and prepares them for the future. As director, her work is grounded in high-quality teaching and learning, family and teacher empowerment, evidence-based innovation, college and career pathways, transparency and student-centered funding and support.

Director Snow began her work in the classroom teaching remedial courses at the University of the Free State in South Africa. She served as Virginia Deputy Secretary of Education over early childhood education through postsecondary pathways and as New Hampshire Division Director of Academics and Assessment, Special Education, Career Development, Adult Education, Wellness and Nutrition following her confirmation.

She also served in the federal government as a special assistant to the President at the White House Domestic Policy Council, senior adviser at the Office of Management and Budget, and policy director at the U.S. Department of Education. Prior to government service, Snow was policy director at the Foundation for Excellence in Education.

Snow has been named a Fulbright grantee, Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, and Bush Institute and Clinton Foundation Presidential Leadership Scholar. She is a proud fifth-generation Midwesterner.

Maryam Rod Szabo - Administrative Consultant, Iowa Department of Education, Educator Quality

Dr. Maryam Rod Szabo is an Administrative Consultant at the Iowa Department of Education. Currently she serves as the lead for educator preparation program evaluation. Prior to her current role she was an Assistant Professor of Education, Instructional Designer, and ESL teacher. She has taught K-12 English as a foreign language, higher education online and face-to-face classes about educational technology and design, online learning and design, ESL endorsements, and education core courses. In her previous roles, she has provided faculty development workshops

related to educational technology, course design, program assessment, online course development and teaching pedagogy.

Maryam earned a doctor of education degree in Curriculum and Instruction from University of Northern Iowa (UNI), Masters of Arts in Instructional Technology and Design, also from UNI, and Bachelor of Teaching English as a Foreign Language from Azad University in Iran.

Stephanie TeKippe - Education Program Consultant, Iowa Department of Education, Educator Quality

Dr. Stephanie TeKippe is an Education Program Consultant at the Iowa Department of Education. Currently, she serves as a co-chair on college/university educator preparation program evaluation teams and leads administrator preparation. Prior to working at the Department, Stephanie was an Associate Professor and chair of the Education Department where she held numerous key faculty and administrative appointments for 15 years. Previous roles included Interim Dean of Faculty, Assistant Dean of Faculty and Assistant Dean of Faculty Development. As an inquisitive educator, Stephanie has published multiple articles and secured grant funding for initiatives in education. Before working in higher education, Stephanie taught third grade. Stephanie earned a Doctor of Education at University of Phoenix in educational leadership with an educational technology emphasis and dissertation in literacy, Master's Degree in instructional technology at University of Northern Iowa and a Bachelor of Science in elementary education with an emphasis in math and minor in educational computing at Iowa State University. Stephanie and her husband Jim have two adult children and enjoy spending time gardening, boating and living life.

Joanne Tubbs - Administrative Consultant, Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Educational Examiners

Joanne Tubbs is in her 13th year with the Bureau of Educational Examiners, where she specializes in ethics for educators, legislation, and administrative rules. Joanne received her bachelor's degree from Iowa State University and two master's degrees from Drake University, and previously taught at the K-12 level for 18 years. Joanne received the Yale Distinguished Educator Award in 2009.

Dr. Pam Vogel, Co-Director of Advocacy, ASCD Board Member

Dr. Pamela Vogel has served as a special education teacher, principal, central office administrator, area education agency supervisor and superintendent, working with teachers, administrators, and boards of education in developing, implementing, and evaluating initiatives that impact student achievement.

She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Iowa, Master's degree in Special Education and Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership from Drake University, and a PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Iowa State University.

From 2010-2015, she instructed classes in curriculum and instruction in the superintendent licensure Program at Iowa State University. She served as assistant Superintendent and superintendent for the Region One school districts in Connecticut from 2015-2020. Prior to that, she served as superintendent at East Union Community School District in Iowa for seven years.

Pam has served on a number of boards and education committees. From 2013-2016, she was elected to the ASCD International Executive Board (Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development). She was a member of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) and its Legislative Committee from 2015- 2020 and on the Iowa ASCD Board (2000-2015) as a member and as president. From 2020 to the present she has been Iowa ASCD's Co-Director of Advocacy.

She was awarded the Jordan Larson Dissertation Award for Excellence in Education in 2009. The Iowa Association of School Librarians honored her with the Distinguished Advocate Award in 2014. In 2015, she was recognized from the University Council for Educational Administration with the Excellence in Educational Leadership Award.

Her focus has been for society to ensure an understanding and capacity to achieve a vision for increased learning in our schools through collaborative efforts and policy decisions that guarantee high quality education. She believes that engaging all schools in the implementation of research based programs is essential to achieve continuous and measurable improvement in curriculum, instructional practices, teacher development, and student performance.

Travis Wilkins, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning and Communications, ADM Community School District

Travis Wilkins serves as the Executive Director of Teaching and Learning and Communication for the ADM Community School District and has served in the district since 2017. He provides strategic vision and leadership for major initiatives and change efforts throughout the district and is responsible for collaborating with the Superintendent to develop and lead operational/system plans and processes to accomplish strategic goals.

In addition to other responsibilities, Travis leads district-wide teaching and learning processes that focus on positively impacting student achievement through the development of innovative practices in the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of the district's curriculum, instruction, and assessment programs.

In collaboration with the superintendent, building principals, and teacher leaders, Travis has led change efforts that have resulted in a decrease from 25% of K-11 students identified as "not yet proficient" in reading (FAST) or ELA (ISASP) in 2021 to 13% of K-11 students identified as "not yet proficient in reading (FAST) or ELA (ISASP) in 2023. In 2023 all buildings in the Adel DeSoto Minburn Community School District received a rating of "High Performing" on the Iowa School Performance Profiles, which scores a combination of student proficiency, growth, and the culture for learning.

Mr. Wilkins holds an Ed.S. in Education with Superintendent Licensure from Drake University. Additionally, Travis has a PK-12 Principal / Supervisor of Special Education Certification from Viterbo University, a master's degree in Elementary Education from Viterbo University, and a bachelor of arts degree in Elementary Education with a Reading Endorsement from Wartburg College.

IACTE Ethics Work Team

The IACTE Ethics Work Team was organized in 2018 after receiving an AACTE State Support Grant focused on the following goals – develop resources to share with IACTE members to integrate the Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE) into programs, provide professional development opportunities to support the integrations, and collaborate with educational partners in Iowa. Several resources have been developed and shared, conference presentations have been provided, and representatives from the Iowa State Education Association, Iowa Department of Education, and Iowa Board of Educational Examiners have served with our work team. Today a new resource, Risk and Reasoning Rubric, will be shared. For additional information please contact Nadene Davidson (davidson@uni.edu) and Jeff Haverland (JHaverland@dbq.edu)

The current IACTE Ethics Work Team is as follows:

Larry Bice, Iowa State University
Will Coghill-Behrends, University of Iowa
Nadene Davidson, Emeritus, University of Northern Iowa
Jeffrey Haverland, University of Dubuque
Colleen Heinz, Iowa State Education Association
Leasha Henriksen, University of Northern Iowa
Kristine Mickelson, Morningside University
Maryam Rod Szabo, Iowa Department of Education
Joanne Tubbs, Board of Educational Examiners
Papae Wymore, William Penn University