



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Graduation Pathways Panel Meeting #4 – Collaborators' Biographies

Steve Baker has worked in the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District since 1985 as a high school math teacher for 11 years, middle school assistant principal for 3 years, and as the high school principal for the last 18 years. Bluffton High School has earned an “A” grade or its equivalent from the Indiana Department of Education for the last 7 out of 8 years. Bluffton High School has also received the 4-star award four times since 2010. Additionally, he has been a member of the Indiana Association of School Principals for 21 years and is currently serving on the executive board of directors. He was president of the IASP in 2010 and currently serves as the National Association of Secondary School Principals state coordinator and the IASP liaison to the Indiana Department of Education. In November 2012, Baker was presented with the Indiana High School Principal of the Year award. In 2016, he served on the ISTEP replacement panel.

Jill Barker currently serves as the Commandant and School Leader of Anderson Preparatory Academy. She holds her BA in English Education from Indiana State University and her MA in Educational Administration and Supervision from Ball State University. She is currently completing her MBA and will begin pursuing her Ed. D. from Indiana State University upon completion. Barker began her career as an English teacher for grades 5-12 and quickly began to specialize in teaching English 10 and reading intervention. She has taught in both Indianapolis and Anderson. Barker moved into administration as Director of Academics & Curriculum at APA leading turnaround efforts, which moved APA from a Priority school to an A-rated school. Following her success in this position, she was promoted to Commandant and School Leader. Barker is currently a member of IASP, NASSP, and Indiana Principal Leadership Institute Cohort #4.

Patrick Biggerstaff serves as Director of CTE and Adult Education for Area 31 Career Programs. He is a Past President of the Indiana Association for Career and Technical Education. He is also the acting Legislative Chair for the Indiana Association of Career and Technical Education Districts. He serves as a member of the ACTE Regional Policy Committee and was recently voted VP-Elect for the national Association for Career and Technical Education, representing the Administration Division. Biggerstaff received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Dallas Baptist University, an MBA from Texas Christian University, a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from UIndy, a CTE endorsement from Indiana State, a K-12 Administrator license through IU, and a CTE Director License through Ball State University. Biggerstaff is a current participant in the EdS/EdD program in Administrative Leadership at BSU.

Dr. **Todd Bess** is the Executive Director for the Indiana Association of School Principals and has served in both building and central office administrator roles. A graduate of



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DePauw University, Bess began his teaching career as a mathematics teacher, then earning his Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Purdue University. He began his administrative career as an Assistant Principal at Frankfort High School, also serving from 2001-2006 as the FHS Principal. In 2010 Bess became the IASP Associate Director, and in 2012 was elevated to the Executive Director position. At IASP, Bess has the opportunity to serve over 2700 building administrators by offering Professional Development and Advocacy and supporting their daily work. In his tenure at IASP, the association has seen their membership rise 44% and their conferences now exceed 1200 annual registrations.

Dr. Jeff Butts is the Superintendent of M.S.D. of Wayne Township. He is a proud graduate of Millikin University (BS), Illinois State University (MS), and Purdue University (PhD). Over the past 25 years, he held positions as a bus driver, coach, teacher, athletic director, principal, assistant superintendent, and now superintendent. He is a recipient of the Principal of the Year from the Indiana Association of School Principals, Administrator of the Year from the Indiana High School Press Association, Minority Police Officers Association Award for Outstanding Work in the Community, Cause Driven Leadership Award from the YMCA, and the 2015 Center for Digital Education Top 30 Technologists, Transformers and Trailblazers. Butts holds leadership positions as the President for the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents, Past Board Chair with the YMCA, President of the Indiana Partnershare, and Past President for the Indiana Urban Schools Association. He was selected to serve on the transition team for Dr. Jennifer McCormick, Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction and remains active on several advisory committees with the Indiana Department of Education.

Rebecca Daugherty currently serves as Principal of Ben Davis University High School. BDU is an Early College school, where students earn both a Core 40 High School Diploma and an Associate Degree Career Technical through Vincennes University. Students apply and are accepted as freshman into the program majoring in one of four majors: health careers, business, information technology, or liberal arts. BDU started in 2006 and has been endorsed by CELL University of Indianapolis as a leading Early College with a national model of success. This past year BDU celebrated its seventh year with 100% graduation rate and for the past three years over 92% of the students have earned a full associate degree. Daugherty has taught in Indianapolis Public Schools, MSD of Pike Township Schools, and Hamilton Southeastern Schools. Her administrative career these past 12 years has been in the MSD of Wayne Township Schools.

Roy Dobbs is an award-winning educator, who has served as a teacher, coach, Dean of Students, Assistant Principal, and Principal in both traditional and alternative school settings. In addition to these educational experiences, Dobbs has served as the Principal of an all-male middle school. As the founder of the Young Men of Purpose Mentoring



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Program, he inspires today's young men to become tomorrow's leaders through teaching the importance of character, scholastic achievement, and service.

Jody French is currently in her second year as Principal at Perry Central Jr./Sr. High School. Prior to this post she has served as an agriculture educator teacher for six years, guidance counselor for four years and assistant principal for two years. With the help of her leadership, Perry Central Jr./Sr. High School became an official Early College High School endorsed by CELL and the Commission for Higher Education. Ms. French started the Governor's Work Ethic Certification in the region and helped to found the Perry County College Success Coalition. Currently over 60% of the Class of 2018 at PCJSHS participates in a meaningful internship experience. In addition, Mrs. French serves as Vice President of the Perry County Council and as a member of the local economic development board.

E. Jo Hoy is the current President of Cardinal Ritter High School and St. Michael – St. Gabriel Elementary School, located on the west side of Indianapolis, Indiana. Previously, Hoy served as Cardinal Ritter High School's principal for 19 years. Within her work with the Archdiocesan high school and elementary school, Hoy has grown both institutions to near full enrollment while maintaining the academic integrity of a private, Catholic, college preparatory school. As President of The West Deanery Unified Catholic Schools, Hoy fosters Catholic identity in both teachers and students alike. Her strategic planning for both schools involves marketing, fundraising, alumni relations, special events, and community involvement. Hoy is an alumna of the University of Dallas where she earned a BS in Economics and a master's degree in Educational Administration and Leadership from Butler University.

Shatoya Jordan is the Principal at Purdue Polytechnic High School. Jordan had been a teacher and administrator with the Excel Center since 2010. As regional director, she was responsible for the academic and operational performance of several schools. She previously was a school director and lead teacher at the center. Before joining the Excel Center, she was a science teacher in the Indianapolis Public Schools and a local charter school. Jordan earned her bachelor's degree in physical education, health and safety science, and biology and her master's degree in leadership administration, both from Marian University.

Dr. **Christopher Lagoni** serves as the new Executive Director of the Indiana Small and Rural Schools Association. Lagoni is an Assistant Professor in the School of Educational Leadership at Indiana Wesleyan University. He teaches courses on testing and measurement in the Ed.S. program at IWU and multiple courses in the principal preparedness program. His area of research interest includes school funding and equity issues. Lagoni recently served as the Superintendent at Carroll Consolidated School Corporation from 2012-2016. Lagoni remains active in Carroll County where his children attend a small and rural school, and he serves on the Board for the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce. Lagoni also has experience as a teacher, alternative



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school director, elementary principal, middle school principal, and high school vice-principal over a twenty-five-year career in education.

Dr. Jon Milleman has taught students in grades 5 through 12 and has held high school administration positions including Assistant Principal of Student Activities, Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction, High School Principal, as well as his current position as Assistant Superintendent. During his time as a building administrator, Milleman led professional development and curriculum development with teachers and administrators, increased enrollment in Advanced Placement and dual credit college courses, and developed numerous school improvement plans and efforts. As Assistant Superintendent of the MSD of Washington Township, Milleman oversees the Teaching and Learning Division of the district, is responsible for district policy development in collaboration with the School Board, and oversees the offices of Grants and Assessment. He has led building and district administrators through the development of a Quality Assurance System as well as leading all administrators and teachers through the development of a new teacher evaluation process and system.

Dr. Hardy Murphy's qualifications include a B.A. from New Mexico State University, an M. Ed. from Southwest Texas State University, and a Ph.D. from The University of Texas. He began his professional career in Fort Worth, Texas where he served as a school psychologist, Director of Desegregation and Affirmative Action, an Assistant Superintendent and as an Associate Superintendent, before moving to Evanston, Illinois where he served as Superintendent of Schools for 13 years. Murphy presently is a clinical professor at IUPUI – Education Leadership and the Executive Director for the Indiana Urban Schools Association. He is Co-Director of the Indiana Teacher Appraisal System of Supports and prior to joining the faculty of IUPUI, he received an appointment as a Research Scholar at Indiana University. Murphy also has served on a variety of state level committees with the Indiana State Board of Education and the Indiana Department of Education.

Lizz Walters graduated from Yale University with a BA in English and began her teaching career in the English Department at Southport High School. After finishing her MS in Administration at Indiana University, she served as Dean of Students for one year and Assistant Principal for eight years at Southport High School. Walters is currently enjoying her third year as Principal of Beech Grove High School. Walters also serves as Vice President of the Indiana Association of School Principals and is working on her doctorate through Indiana University.

Brian Wilson is in his 31st year as an educator. After teaching middle and high school math for 16 years, Wilson spent four years as a high school assistant principal prior to being hired as the middle school principal at Vincennes Clark. The past eight years, Wilson has been working as an administrator in Jasper, including the past six years as the



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high school principal. A life-long Hoosier, Wilson did his undergraduate studies in Lafayette at Purdue University and received his masters from Indiana State University.