

E. Jane Larson, Ph.D.

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DYNAMIC, RESULTS-DRIVEN SCHOOL LEADER

Committed to organizational effectiveness, strategic planning, project management, and engendering exemplary campus operations

Versatile and adaptable educational leader with a proven record of accomplishment and contribution in the field of education. Passionate and driven, with a demonstrated ability to increase student academic growth, expand programming to meet the needs of all learners, and create a collaborative school climate and culture while advancing organizational goals. Known as knowledgeable, accessible and approachable. A true community partner representing education in the local community and beyond.

*Cross-Functional Collaboration
Mental Health Programming
Successful PR/Marketing*

*Data-based Decision Making
Strategic Planning/Analysis
Conflict Resolution*

*Resource Attainment/Grants Mgt.
Program Expansion
Staff Recruitment/Retention*

Professional Experience

Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education

La Porte Community School Corporation, La Porte, Indiana

- Gained millions of dollars annually in grant funding to support safe schools, professional development, local juvenile services, social emotional learning, and family/community engagement services;
- Developed student recruitment plan including open enrollment and online school for K-12 students;
- Facilitated feasibility study and strategic planning teams in the areas of college and career readiness, high ability learning, intermediate learning, and fine/performing arts to lead the merger of two middle schools into one intermediate campus, grades 5-8 with almost 2,000 students;
- Lead all matters associated with secondary education, grades 5-12, including policy, staffing, curriculum, instruction and assessment in a school district of 6,000 students, 11 schools, and 500 certified staff; developed alternative programming for non-traditional students by providing online and in person opportunities along with developing a K-12 fully online school;
- Created Aspiring Principals Academy for staff completing their administrative licensing to coach and mentor future leaders; annual graduates moved into administrative positions within the district;
- Created New Teacher Academy for all new teachers to provide knowledge, support and ongoing mentoring to increase teacher retention.

Major Accomplishments:

- *Student academic increase in state assessments;*
- *Development of mental health programing to address student and staff needs;*
- *Increase in career readiness/dual credit courses.*

Chief Academic Officer/Assistant Superintendent

School City of East Chicago, East Chicago, Indiana

- Guided all aspects of curriculum, instruction and assessment in a school district of 5,500 students, 10 schools and 400 certified staff;
- Coordinated core curriculum and intervention programs for all students including high ability and English for non-English speakers; provided all professional development, monitored district data through collection, analysis and interpretation;

- Managed federal grant programs including Title 1, Title II, Title III, competitive grant awards and partnerships; implemented and monitored progress of strategic plan;
- Participated in contract negotiations and union affiliated meetings;
- Recruited and retained staff in the curriculum department and all PreK-12 schools; trained and supported instructional coaches at each school;
- Created and monitored progress of Transition to High School Inquiry Based Program for students ages 11-16 who had been retained at least twice and were not on target to graduate; managed district-wide curriculum councils;
- Implemented a district-wide technology 1:1 initiative;
- Initiated on campus college course experiences for students in early college model and partnered with local universities to create a blended program of college campus attendance.

Major Accomplishments:

- *Graduation rate increase from 52% in 2010 to 79.%% in 2013;*
- *Removal of high school from possible state takeover in 2011 by improving overall academic achievement and attendance in one year from a state grad of F to a grade of C;*
- *Improvement of all elementary schools with an average of 25% increase on state assessments.*

Director of Fund Attainment, Management, and Staff Development

Michigan City Area Schools, Michigan City, Indiana

- Secured and managed over \$10 million in grant funding to support professional development and educational programming through grant research, proposal writing and grant submission;
- Expanded fiscal resource pool via acquisition of monetary gifts, in-kind donations, and public grant programs from a diverse clientele of philanthropic agencies;
- Led professional development for over 400 PreK-12 educators including leadership training for implementation of district strategic plan;
- Initiated Professional Learning Community framework to ensure academic focus through collaboration.

Major Accomplishments:

- *Millions of dollars secured through grant attainment;*
- *Increase in district state academic progress measured through state Annual Yearly Progress (AYP);*
- *Individual schools showed an average increase of 21% in state assessments.*

Adjunct Professor of Educational Leadership

Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana

- Provided instruction and mentoring for students in the Principal Licensure Program of Educational Leadership. Taught course in Instructional Leadership through Effective Management of Human Capital.

School Administrator K-12

Portage Township Schools, Portage, Indiana

- Served as Principal of K-5 school of over 500 students; structured school into data-based decision making professional learning communities; focused leadership improvement areas, and created initiatives to celebrate all successes.
- Served as Freshman Principal for two years and Assistant Principal for four years at a high school of 2,500 students developing interdisciplinary teams and supporting student achievement and staff development.

Lake Central School Corporation, St. John, Indiana

- Served as Assistant Principal for over 400 sophomore students providing support and direction for credit attainment and behavior modification; coordinated staff professional development; and developed parent community programs.

American Indian Christian Mission, Show Low, Arizona

- Served as administrator of Native American mission school; provided support to staff, students, families and volunteers.

Teacher

Portage Township Schools, Portage, Indiana

- Instructed all high school business subjects including computer technology, English, Mathematics and Business Law. Served as Business Professionals of America sponsor taking students to state and national competitions.

Education and Credentials

Doctorate of Philosophy Degree (Ph.D.) in Educational Leadership and Foundations

Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana

Honors: J. Fred Swalls Award for Excellence in Educational Leadership

Dissertation: How Indiana Public School Superintendents Make Decisions About Religious Issues

Master of Arts Degree (M.A.) in Business Administration and Secondary Education

Indiana University Northwest, Gary, Indiana

Honors: Academic Scholar

Thesis: Developing Crucial Partnerships for Educational Success

Bachelor of Arts Degree (B.A.) in Business Administration and Secondary Education

Milligan College, Johnson City, Tennessee

Honors: Ambassador for the College and Academic Excellence

Certifications

- Harvard School of Education, Certification in the Art of Leadership; *Harvard University*
- Indiana Principals Leadership Academy: State of Indiana, Group 31
- Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents: Aspiring Superintendent Academy, Class 57
- Disney Institute: Certificate in Five Pillars of Business Excellence
- North Central Association and AdvancEd: Certification in School Accreditation
- The Cambridge Group: Strategic Planning Certification
- Leadership La Porte County, Cohort Group 32
- Indiana Safe Schools Academy Specialist Certification

Honors and Activities

- Award for Outstanding Leadership as President of Indiana Association of School Principals
- J. Fred Walls Award for Excellence in Educational Leadership through Indiana State University
- Excellent in Environmental Education Award presented by the City of Michigan City
- Outstanding Service Award, La Porte County United Way Appropriations Committee
- Nominee for Society of Innovators Award in Northwest Indiana
- Partnership Award from Communities in School of East Chicago
- Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) of La Porte County Steering Committee
- Purdue University College of Engineering, Advisory Council Board Member
- IVY Tech College, Education Professionals Board Member
- African American Student Achievement Council, Partner support member

Professional Memberships

- Association of Fundraising Professionals
- Indiana Urban School Association
- National Association of Educators for Young Children (NAEYC)
- Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents (IAPSS)
- Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)
- National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC)

Grant Writing, Reviewing, and Managing

- Professional Grants Writer and Reviewer, certified through Research Associates, Inc.
- U.S. Department of Education Federal Grants Reviewer, Washington, D.C.
- Grant Reviewer for Appropriations Committee of La Porte County United Way
- Secured/managed over \$30 million in competitive, local, state and federal grant awards, including:
 - Partners in Prevention grant, Lilly Foundation Counseling grant, Department of Homeland Security Safety and Security grant, 21st Century federal grants, and Foundation grants

Philanthropic Commitment

- United Way of La Porte County, Board President
- Workforce Taskforce of La Porte County, President
- La Porte County System of Care, Board Member
- La Porte County Rotary Club, member
- Juvenile Detention Alternative to Incarceration (JDAI), Board member
- Hours for Ours Mentoring Not-for-Profit Organization, Advisory board member
- Duneland Education Foundation, Board member
- American Cancer Society, Leukemia and Lymphoma research supporter