

PROPEL SCHOOLS – ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM
2009 - 2010

CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER/SUPERINTENDENT

CAROL WOOTEN – *Dr. Wooten holds a B.S. in Biology from Emory and Henry College, a M.A. in German Literature from the University of Memphis, and an Ed.D. in Administrative and Policy Studies from the University of Pittsburgh. She taught biology and other sciences for 18 years and has been a high school principal in the Riverview SD, worked with curriculum and instruction in the Mars Area SD, and served as a middle school principal, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Superintendent in the South Side Area SD. She worked as a researcher and evaluator for the University of Pittsburgh on the New Futures Project in the Pittsburgh City High Schools. She was the co-chair of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee for PA ASCD, where she served on the Executive Board. Her international experiences in education include research in Taishi-Cho, Japan and Augsburg, Germany. She is a member of the Western PA Forum for School Superintendents. She is on the Board of Directors for Three Rivers Connect and Pittsburgh Habitat for Humanity.*

COORDINATOR OF PUPIL SERVICES

MANDI DAVIS SKERBETZ – *Ms. Davis Skerbetz holds a B.S. in Elementary Education and a Masters of Science in Special Education from Duquesne University. Prior to working for Propel Schools Ms. Davis Skerbetz worked for the Watson Institute and Pressley Ridge in their Autism Programs. Ms. Davis Skerbetz began teaching special education and gifted education at Propel Homestead during the first year of Propel Schools. She currently teaches undergraduate and graduate courses at the University of Pittsburgh. She is currently pursuing an Ed.D. in Special Education focusing on Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities from the University of Pittsburgh. Ms. Davis Skerbetz has served as the Coordinator of Pupil Services for the past four years.*

COORDINATOR OF DATA AND INSTRUCTION

RANDALL BARTLETT - *Mr. Bartlett holds a B.A. in History and Religion from Oberlin College, a M.Ed in Elementary Education from Antioch University and an Educational Leadership and Principal's Certification from Keene State College. He taught 3rd and 4th grade in addition to 5th grade Science and Social Studies at the Acworth Center School in Acworth, New Hampshire. He also taught Kindergarten at the Benjamin Franklin School in Keene, New Hampshire. Mr. Bartlett served as the Elementary Literacy Curriculum Coordinator for the Fall Mountain Regional School District. He also worked as the Director of Academic Assistance Programs for an Ohio United Way organization, which provided academic support for K-12 students in literacy and mathematics. Mr. Bartlett served as the Assistant Principal at Propel East in the 2006-2007 school year and at Propel Montour in the 2007-2008 school year.*

COORDINATOR OF TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

JOSEPH OLIPHANT – *Mr. Oliphant received his B.S. in Elementary Education from Point Park University in Pittsburgh, Pa, in 2002. He then went on to earn his Masters of Education in School Administration and his K-12 Principal Certification from California University of Pennsylvania in 2008. Mr. Oliphant worked at Holy Family Institute for three years before joining the Propel family, where he worked as a second grade teacher at Propel East for three years. The 09/10 school year will mark his second year as Coordinator of Technology Integration. He was named a 2008 Pennsylvania Keystone Technology Integrator. He is a certified Smart trainer, and is currently involved in Carnegie Mellon's Gigapan project. Mr. Oliphant had an article published detailing the benefits of implementing technology properly in the May 2009 edition of The Pennsylvania Administrator magazine.*

COORDINATOR OF CREATIVE ARTS

LAURA FERGUSON - *Ms. Ferguson, a graduate of Point Park University, has worked in both administrative and theatrical capacities. She has been an acting instructor for Point Park University, Civic Light Opera, The Center for Theater Arts, and various performing arts schools throughout Allegheny and Beaver County areas. As a performer, Laura has toured throughout the eastern US with Saltworks Theater Company and the Civic Light Opera "Gallery of Heroes". She has also worked in professional theaters in Pittsburgh including St. Vincent Summer Theater and the Pittsburgh Playhouse. In addition to her stage work, Ms. Ferguson has experience acting on-camera for many industrial films, voice-overs and commercial ads. Her administrative experience includes working alongside executive management, specializing in creating work processes, designing presentations and analyzing budgets for Development Dimensions International, Fiserv and Mellon Bank.*

COORDINATOR OF TRANSITIONS – PROPEL ANDREW STREET HIGH SCHOOL

LESLIE HORNE – *Ms. Horne holds a B.S. in Education from Duquesne University and a Master of Arts in Educational Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh where she also pursued doctoral coursework in school psychology. She has worked as a teacher in the Pittsburgh Public Schools and as an educational consultant. Her primary interests are college preparation and educational equity. She directed the start-up of two pre-college enrichment programs at the University of Pittsburgh – INVESTING NOW and CARE; both programs target outstanding high school students interested in pursuing STEM careers. She has consulted for NEED and Imani Christian Academy in the area of preparing high school students for post-secondary education. Ms. Horne was a manager of INROADS/Pittsburgh where she was responsible for the operation of a pre-college enrichment program and a college internship program designed to increase the representation of African American, Hispanic and Native American professionals in major corporations.*

PRINCIPAL – PROPEL ANDREW STREET HIGH SCHOOL

CAROLYN DAVIS – *In addition to serving as a Propel Principal Dr. Davis directs the Heritage Health Foundation partnership with Propel Schools. Dr. Davis holds a B.S. in Communication Disorders from Hampton University in Hampton, VA, a M.S. in Communication Disorders from California University of Pennsylvania, Principal Certification from Indiana University of PA and an D.ED. in Administration and Leadership Studies from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She was a Speech and Language Pathologist for 20 years with the Pittsburgh Public School District and for 1 year in Lynchburg, VA. She served for 8 years as an Administrator for the Pittsburgh Public School District: 2 years as an Assistant principal at Carmalt Elementary School (K-8), 3 years as Principal of Madison Elementary School (PreK-5), 1 year as Principal of East Hills International Studies Academy (PreK-5) and 2 years as Principal of Pittsburgh Weil Accelerated Learning Academy (PreK-8). She was a presenter at 84th NAESP convention in Baltimore, Maryland in 2005 on the topic: “Operational Vision for School Leadership”. She is on the Board of Directors for Schenley Heights Community Development Program, and serves on the Education Committee for the Allegheny Union Baptist Association of Pennsylvania.*

PRINCIPAL – PROPEL HOMESTEAD

ROBERT BISCHOFF – *Mr. Bischoff received his bachelor’s degree in History and completed a graduate teacher certification program in Social Studies and Special Education at the University of Pittsburgh. He received his Masters in Public Management and PA Principal Certification from Carnegie Mellon University’s Heinz School of Public Policy and Management. Prior to teaching at Duquesne High School and Oliver High School he served in the United States Marine Corps as an Executive Officer. Mr. Bischoff completed an administrative internship at Quaker Valley High School and Oliver High School. He most recently served as the Principal of the Duquesne City Middle/High School.*

PRINCIPAL– PROPEL HOMESTEAD

ARIANE WATSON– *Ms. Watson served two years as the math coach at Propel Homestead. Prior to Propel, she was a teacher and a math coach in the Wilkinsburg School District. She is currently a doctoral student at the University of Pittsburgh where she recently obtained her K-12 principal certification as well as certification in Supervision of Curriculum and Instruction.*

LITERACY COACH – PROPEL HOMESTEAD

MEGAN NEWSOME – *Ms. Newsome holds a B.S. in Elementary Education and Reading K-12 from John Carroll University. She is also a PA Certified K – 12 Reading Specialist. Ms. Newsome has worked as a middle school Remedial Reading and Language Arts Teacher in Ohio as well as a Grade Three Teacher and Intermediate Reading Intervention Teacher in Maryland. She is currently pursuing National Board Certification.*

MATH COACH – PROPEL HOMESTEAD

MARSHA BURLESON – *Ms. Burleson is currently in her first year as a Math Coach in Propel Homestead. Prior to that, she taught fourth grade in North Carolina and has also taught second and fifth grade in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. She taught fifth grade in Norfolk, Virginia and was the grade-level chair for two years. Marsha Burleson completed a Principal’s Internship at Upper St. Clair School District in the Middle School. Ms. Burleson holds a B.S. in Elementary Education and a Master in Education in School Administration and Supervision K-12 from Duquesne University.*

PRINCIPAL – PROPEL MONTOUR

DIANE MOONEY – *Ms. Mooney holds a B.S. and a Masters of Education from the University of Pittsburgh. She also holds Pennsylvania and Maine Elementary and Secondary Administration Certification. She was a teacher at Shady Side Academy, an Assistant Principal at a high school in Maine, a PS – 8 principal with the Diocese of Pittsburgh, and a principal at Carlynton Junior-Senior High School. Ms. Mooney came to Propel Schools from Crafton Elementary School in the Carlynton SD where she was the principal. Ms. Mooney served as the Associate Principal at Propel Homestead for two years.*

PRINCIPAL – PROPEL MONTOUR

JUSTIN AGLIO - *Mr. Aglio holds a B.A. in Elementary Education from Waynesburg University and M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in School leadership from McDaniel College. He holds certifications in School Administration in Pennsylvania and Maryland. Prior to coming to Propel he was a teacher and administrator in Charles County Public Schools, Maryland. He taught at the elementary level in addition to middle school science. Mr. Aglio also was the Evening School Coordinator for Charles County Public Schools, Middle School Administrator at the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, an alternative school for at-risk students and most recently Vice Principal at Maurice J. McDonough High School. He also served as the Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Team leader and School Testing Coordinator.*

LITERACY COACH - PROPEL MONTOUR

VERONICA MICHALAK- *Ms. Michalak holds a B.S. in Elementary Education from Lock Haven University and a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Gannon University. She has recently received her Principal’s Certification from Gannon University. Prior to coming to Propel she was a First Grade teacher for three years in Cobb County SD in Georgia. She was also a Behavior Specialist at Marcus Institute in Atlanta, GA. She taught grade one at Propel Homestead and grade five at Propel East where she served as a Literacy Coach Intern.*

MATH COACH – PROPEL MONTOUR

HOLLY POPE – Ms. Pope holds a B.S. in Elementary Education from Geneva College. She has held positions at In His Hands Daycare in Aliquippa, PA and served as Director/Group Supervisor at Beaver County Head Start. She taught 5th grade at Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools for two years before joining the Propel Homestead staff in 2003 as a third grade teacher. Ms. Pope has since then taught 5th grade Math and Core subjects. She served as the chairperson for the Faculty Math Committee and as a Math Coach Intern at Propel Homestead. She holds Middle School Math Certification and is currently completing her Masters Degree.

PRINCIPAL– PROPEL MCKEESPORT

TINA CHEKAN – Ms. Chekan holds a B.S. in Elementary Education from Ball State University and a Master of Education in Deaf Education from the University of Pittsburgh. She received her Principal’s Certification from Gannon University. Prior to coming to Propel she was a teacher in the Wilkinsburg SD. She taught art to grades one through five in Shelbyville, Indiana. She was also a Behavior Specialist at Pressley Ridge School. She taught Kindergarten and Grade One at Propel Homestead. She served as the Assistant Principal and Literacy Coach at Propel McKeesport for two years.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL– PROPEL MCKEESPORT

ANDREW HAMPTON CONWAY - Mr. Conway holds a B.S. in Elementary Education from Clearwater Christian College. He is certified in Elementary Education and has taught elementary, middle, and high school students. While serving as a second grade chairperson in Prince George’s Country MD, he aided in developing the school improvement plan. His background in technology has enabled him to serve as a Technology Representative in each of the districts he has served, and to assist in the development of the Technology Plan for Page Country Schools in Virginia. Mr. Conway has led staff development workshops, including Mon Valley Learns. He has also served as an instructor and mentor in adult prisons and juvenile detention centers. He is currently working on his Masters of Public Management in the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University.

MATH COACH –PROPEL MCKEESPORT

ANN MARTIN – Ms. Martin began her career as a classroom teacher in private schools throughout the Pittsburgh area. She then worked as a Title I Math and Reading Specialist with Intermediate Unit II. While with the Intermediate Unit she was the coordinator of the Title I Parent Involvement Program as well as serving on various curriculum, instruction, and assessment committees. For the past several years she has worked as a Math and Literacy Coach for the Leechburg Area School District. Prior to coming to Propel she served as an Educational Consultant with Kaplan K12 for the implementation of the Pittsburgh Public School Core Curriculum in Algebra I and Geometry.

LITERACY COACH- PROPEL MCKEESPORT

TERESA O'NEILL—*Ms. O'Neill holds a B.S. in Elementary Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Masters of Education with a K-12 Reading Specialist certification from California University of Pennsylvania. Prior to coming to Propel, she taught first grade at an Edison school in East Liberty. She taught first grade for two years and fourth grade for one year at Propel McKeesport.*

PRINCIPAL – PROPEL EAST

SANDRA GRASSEL – *Ms. Grassel holds a B.A. in Elementary Education from Point Park University, a B.A. in Speech Communications and Broadcasting from George Washington University, and a J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law. She holds certification in curriculum and instruction and completed her Principal's Certification at Gannon University. Prior to coming with Propel she was a teacher in the Wilkinsburg SD and a teacher and team leader for Beacon Education Management. She taught grade four and has served as a Math Coach at Propel Homestead. She has served as the principal at Propel East for one year.*

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL – PROPEL EAST –

DARREN STROMOCK- *Mr. Stromock holds a B.S. in Elementary Education from Gannon University, and earned a Masters of Education with a K-12 Principal certification from California University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Stromock's educational career began in Prince George's County Maryland as a fourth grade teacher and Social Studies Chairperson. He taught second and third grade at the Urban League of Pittsburgh Charter in addition to serving as Science Lead Teacher. Mr. Stromock most recently was employed by Chartiers Valley School District as a first grade teacher. His tenure at Chartiers Valley also included revising the district strategic plan and Social Studies curriculum. He has also worked as a Therapeutic Support Staff member for Southwestern Human Services.*

LITERACY COACH – PROPEL EAST

KRISTIN KLINGENSMITH - *Ms. Klingensmith earned a B.A. in English Literature, a Certificate in Children's Literature, and a Masters in the Art of Teaching from the University of Pittsburgh. She holds Reading Specialist Certification. Her teaching experience includes three years as a 6th grade teacher and two years as a Math Coach in the Wilkinsburg School District.*

MATH COACH – PROPEL EAST

LINDSEY SMITH – *This is Mrs. Smith's first year with Propel Schools. Mrs. Smith holds a B.S. in Elementary Education with a Mathematics Concentration from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and is currently pursuing her Master of Education in Elementary and Middle School Mathematics degree. She holds Pennsylvania and Maryland certificates for teaching kindergarten through sixth grade as well as seventh through ninth grade mathematics. Prior to coming to Propel she was a Math Coach in the Armstrong School District for two years. She was also a fourth grade teacher in Baltimore, Maryland for three years. She has been co-chair of the Parent Involvement Committee, and has also served on the Student Achievement Committee, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Team, and Faculty Council. She is currently a member of the Mathematics Standards Aligned Systems Team for the PA Department of Education.*