

2007-2008 West Virginia Education Policy Fellows

Amena Anderson is a Project Direct for the West Virginia Center for Professional Development. She holds a bachelors degree in English from Fairmont State University and a graduate degree in educational leadership from West Virginia University. In her current position she serves as a Project Director for the West Virginia Achievement Project, which is an initiative that aims to increase the academic levels of minority, low/income/"would be" first generation college students via community awareness activities to increase community mobility and engagement.

Robert "Rockie" DeLorenzo Jr. is the Principal of West Fairmont Middle School in Fairmont, WV, one of two state 21st Century Learning demonstrate sites. He earned a bachelors degree in secondary education from Fairmont State University and holds degrees in physical education and educational leadership from West Virginia University. In his current position, Mr. DeLorenzo is responsible for providing instructional leadership, gathering and analyzing educational data, facilitating the development and implementation of strategic plans, and developing school policies and procedures.

H. Nathan Estel is Executive Director of the Office of Professional Preparation in the West Virginia Department of Education. Mr. Estel holds degrees in biology and in education, both of which he earned at Marshall University. Currently, he is pursuing a doctoral degree in educational leadership studies from West Virginia University. In his current position, Mr. Estel works to recruit, professionally develop, and retain highly qualified teachers in the state of West Virginia.

Cynthia Gissy is an Associate Professor of Education at West Virginia University Parkersburg. Mrs. Gissy has a bachelors degree in elementary education and a masters degree in curriculum and instruction from West Virginia University. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in educational leadership from West Virginia University. In her current position, Mrs. Gissy serves as a teacher educator at a regional campus of West Virginia University.

Adam Green is a Research & Planning Analyst for the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. Dr. Green holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from West Virginia University as well as masters and doctoral degrees in educational leadership studies. In his current position, Dr. Green works to develop, establish, and oversee the implementation of public policy for West Virginia's four year colleges and universities.

Barbara Owens is the PDS Partnership Director at Fairmont State University. She has a bachelors degree in English education from Fairmont State University and a masters degree in counseling and guidance from West Virginia University. Mrs. Owens was a veteran teacher for Harrison County Schools before accepting her current position at Fairmont State University. In her current position, she now directs Fairmont States' partnership efforts with eight public school districts.

Donna Peduto is a Teacher Quality Coordinator for the Office of Professional Preparation in the West Virginia Department of Education. She has a bachelors degree in elementary education and a masters degree in reading from West Virginia University. In her current position, Mrs. Peduto serves as a liaison to 19 institutions of higher education in the state of West Virginia to coordinate state review and national accreditation.

Steve Rodriguez is the Principal of Fairview Middle School for Marion County School. Mr. Rodriguez has a bachelors degree in elementary education from Fairmont State University. He also holds a masters degree in elementary education and administration and supervision, both of which he earned from West Virginia University. Mr. Rodriguez leads the day to day instructional leadership for a small rural community school.

Melanie Skeen-Gregory is the Director of Community Relations for the Appalachian Education Initiative. She has a bachelors degree in English and a masters degree in public administration from West Virginia University. As Director of Community Relations for AEI, Mrs. Skeen-Gregory works to ensure that all West Virginia students have quality arts education.