

DONNA M. HARGENS, Ed.D.

PROVEN EDUCATIONAL LEADER/ADMINISTRATOR

Accomplished and experienced educator with strong administrative experience with a consistent and proven record of leadership with a focus on student achievement. Experienced in managing all aspects of a school district – having taught in a small high school and being responsible for a district region that contained 23 schools, to working as interim superintendent and superintendent in two large districts. Grounded in supporting what happens in the classroom regardless of the number of classrooms in the district. Implemented organizational culture change to provide an environment where all student graduates are prepared to reach their full potential and contribute to society. Excellent interpersonal communications and critical thinking skills with the ability to cultivate, maintain and strengthen board and community relationships.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Jefferson County Public Schools, Louisville, KY

August 2011 – July 2017

Superintendent

- Implemented the new KY Standards in 11-12
- Improved Graduation rate to 80.1% (2016)
- Improved College and Career Readiness from 31% to 63.4% (10-16)
- Met KY District Target in 12-13 and 13-14
- Increased Overall Math and Reading by 7.5 points for all students in 4 years(12-16)
- Increased Overall Math and Reading by 10.2 points for non-gap students in 4 years (12-16)
- Increased Overall Math and Reading by 8.6 points for gap students in 4 years (12-16)
- Improved Overall Math and Reading in every subgroup (12-16) maintaining LEP
- Increased school-based spending by \$243 million
- Decreased non-school-based spending by \$93 million
- Proposed and passed Superintendent Authority Bill

Wake County Public Schools, Raleigh, North Carolina

2003 – July 2011

Various School Administrator Positions

Chief Academic Officer

Led a continuing and systematic process for improving student achievement through a knowledge of curriculum and through leadership in learning and teaching at all levels, pre-kindergarten through high school for over 143,000 students in 163 schools operating on 4 calendars (traditional, year-round, modified, community college)

- Managed 31 schools to offer magnet programs to promote diverse student populations
- Served as a member of the Superintendent's Strategy Team to set system direction, implement policy, and manage system-wide operations
- Served as liaison to the Board of Education's Student Achievement Committee
- Aligned and coordinated the work of the 3 interdependent parts of the Instructional Services Division – Curriculum and Instruction, Evaluation and Research, and Student Support Services
- Facilitated the district-wide implementation of the recommendations of the Curriculum Management Audit
- Managed a multi-million dollar budget that supported learning and teaching.

Interim Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

- Managed the day-to-day operations of the school district and maintained the operations and focus on continuous improvement of the Instructional Services Division. Operating budget of \$1.2 billion.

- Guided the continuity and the consistency in efforts to improve student achievement.
- Lead the “reinvention” of four elementary schools using Race to the Top funding.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

- Served on the Superintendent’s Cabinet and as the C&I staff liaison to the Board of Education, school principals, teacher leadership, and community organizations
- Coordinated effective management and continuous improvement of all Curriculum and Instruction functions related to K-12 curriculum and program development, professional development for school staff, and consultative services to schools, central office and community organizations
- Used data and customer feedback to develop goals, objectives and strategies for continuous improvement of system-wide instruction and innovative programming
- Developed and managed C&I budget (\$180 million) and administered funds to support system goals and priorities in compliance with federal, state and local policies and procedures.

Western Area Assistant Superintendent — Provided leadership for establishing, maintaining, supporting, supervising, and improving quality schools for 15 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, and 3 high schools.

- Served on the Superintendent’s Cabinet
- Recommended candidates and contract status for principal positions
- Implemented effective evaluation procedures for principals
- Led the School Improvement process
- Served as the Superintendent’s designee in student grievance procedures

Other Educator Positions

Principal, Green Hope High School, Cary, NC

Principal, Cary High School, Cary, NC

Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction, Millbrook High School, Raleigh, NC

High School Teacher, Spanish and English, Lomira High School, Lomira, WI

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Seton Hall University-South Orange, NJ

Doctorate-- Educational Leadership, Management & Policy

University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, NC

Masters of Education -- Educational Administration and Supervision

Marquette University-Milwaukee, WI

Bachelor of Arts -- Summa cum Laude; Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society

Professional Training

- BY ALL MEANS, Harvard University
- PELP (Public Education Leadership Project), Harvard University
- Principals’ Executive Leadership Program for High School Principals
- Principals’ Executive Program – Chapel Hill, NC

PROFESSIONAL HONORS

Marquette Distinguished Alumnus of the Year (2016)

Omega Psi Phi (Theta Omega Chapter) Citizen of the Year

Certificate of Honorary Life Recognition – Kentucky PTA (2016)

Most Admired Educator, Today’s Woman (2015)

Business First’s 2013 Enterprising Women of Achievement

Outstanding Educational Leadership Award, Louisville Urban League (2012)

KY Colonel

Women of Western Wake, Cary Magazine

Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society

Parent Teacher Association Outstanding Principal

Wake County Public School System Principal of the Year

Top 10 Newsmakers, Cary, NC

Parent Teacher Association Outstanding Principal

Phi Beta Kappa (Marquette University)