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A Letter from the President February 2020

*NOSS exists to assist education professionals
in making a positive difference in the lives of students.*

Dear NOSS Members,

Oh, What a Year!

Last year, our NADE members voted to change the name of the organization. It was a milestone in the organization's history. It took a bold and unwavering commitment by members to take a hard look at where we are and where we should go. At the NADE conference in Atlanta, the announcement was made, and our journey started. The National Organization for Student Success officially became our new name.

With the approval of the new name, the NOSS board embarked on the journey to redefine the organization. Our first action was twofold. First, we took steps to officially change the name and relocate the business from Indiana to Alabama. Secondly, we established a steering committee who came up with a marketing plan for the organization. Both of these actions took a bit of time to complete, but in May 2019, we had officially changed the name, created a method for state chapters to change their names, and communicated to stakeholders about the change.

The next step was to evaluate our processes and procedures. We evaluated the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Handbook (PPH), consolidated and renamed grants, and updated all documentation to reflect the new logo. Most importantly, though, we established a new mission: **NOSS exists to assist educational professionals in making a positive difference in the lives of their students.**

Our goal is to help you do the best job that you can by providing an outstanding conference, a group of colleagues whom you can call on for advice and comradery, as well as professional development opportunities. It is with that in mind that the NOSS board is in the midst of creating a strategic plan. We have a unique opportunity to set the vision for the organization in such a way that we become one of the strongest organizations in the country. Over the course of the next few months, you will be hearing more about this vision as we share the goals of the strategic plan. We invite all ideas, opinions, and thoughts on where the organization will head because it is you who makes this organization work. The NOSS board thanks each of you for your time commitment, dedication, and support of NOSS.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the conference in Nashville. It is going to be great.

Denise

Meet some more new members! Welcome!



Jane Denison-Furness

Institution: Central Oregon Community College

Position: Assistant Professor of English and Developmental Literacy Coordinator

Something you would like to share that highlights your work: We are in the middle of a Title III grant for redesigning developmental education at the college. So far, we have added a co-requisite model for our freshman composition course and moved to directed self-placement (using multiple measures). We are now focusing on redesigning our IRW course offerings (two course sequence) in order to better meet the needs of our students.

A fun fact about yourself: I went to community college and finished my Master's as an older, returning student. Recently I completed coursework for my EdD at Sam Houston State University (Developmental Education Administration) and am working on my dissertation that focuses on veterans and higher education.



Mari Ann Banks

Institution: Clayton State University

Position:

Director, Center for Academic Success

Director, Master of Arts in Teaching Program

Jimmy Easley University Professor of Multicultural Education

Something you would like to share that highlights your work: As you can see from the above, I work entirely too much!! LOL Our Center serves our small university of 7k students with Tutoring, SI, Academic Coaching, Academic Workshops and Faculty Development programs. Our dedicated staff members, peer tutors, professional staff and graduate students work diligently toward student success and they are phenomenal - as are our students!

The Center's vision statement is: *A place where academic success is not an option – it's inevitable.*

A fun fact about yourself: I try really hard to write poetry. My latest attempt can be found here. www.docmari.com



Bill Sargeant

Institution: Colorado State University-Pueblo

Position: Lecturer (Math)



Andrea Jefferson

Institution: Ivy Tech Community College, Evansville, IN

Position: Assistant Professor

Something you would like to share that highlights your work: I am currently teaching and designing developmental English courses in an 8-week format.

A fun fact about yourself: My first national conference in higher ed. was the Annual Conference on Acceleration in Developmental Education in Baltimore. While I was there, I visited the grave of one of my literary favorites, Edgar Allan Poe.

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