

PLC Task Force Biographies
March 2009

Mary Ann Adams—Mary Ann received her BS degree in Home Economics Education from North Dakota State University and her MS in Effective Teaching from Buena Vista University. She has held various family and consumer sciences (FCS) positions throughout her career such as: extension home economist, utility home economist, community college adult education instructor, secondary family and consumer sciences instructor, area education educational consultant and now her current position as the state consultant for FCS and state adviser for the career and technical student organization connected to FCS called Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA).

Mary Airy — Mary Airy is a native Iowan who graduated from Iowa State University with a BS in Elementary Education. She earned a MA from the University of Iowa in Early Childhood Curriculum. Mary taught 19 years in 2 Iowa districts- Bedford Community Schools and Benton Community Schools. The final 11 years were at the Kindergarten level. Mary has worked as an AEA consultant for 16 years. Currently she coordinates early childhood professional development initiatives such as Every Child Reads and Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards and collaborates with six local Community Empowerment Boards. She also provides technical assistance to early childhood stakeholders applying for and implementing the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children.

Judith Bowstead Nye —Judith Bowstead Nye taught in the Southeast Polk and Williamsburg Community to schools prior to her appointment in elementary and early childhood education at Luther College, Decorah. She holds the Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education, a Master of Arts degree in Early Childhood and a PhD in Elementary Education, Supervision of Instruction and Reading, all from the University of Iowa. Currently, she is a Professor of Education and Department Head at Luther. She has served as a consultant to a number of school districts and has presented papers on early childhood and reading at a number of regional and national conferences. She is a past president of the Iowa Association of Colleges for Teacher Education and serves on higher education accreditation teams for the Iowa Department of Education.

Michael Cavin — Michael Cavin has been a Consultant with the Board of Educational Examiners since 2007. His primary responsibility is Special Education Licensure. Prior to his position with BOEE, he coordinated both Federal Research and State Improvement grants at the University of Northern Iowa, Department of Special Education where he also served as an Adjunct Instructor in Methods and Transition of Individuals with Severe Mental Disabilities, Special Education Collaboration, and Meeting the needs of Diverse Learners. His areas of professional interest are self-determination, inclusion, and transition of individuals with disabilities.

Dawn Collins — I have served in this position since September 2007. Some of my responsibilities include coordinating and supporting the work of CCR&R Regional Infant Toddler Specialists, Child Care Home Consultants, Training Coordinators, and Professional Development Consultants. I am also responsible for approval of trainings to meet the department child care regulatory requirements. I also represent the department in Early Childhood Iowa efforts to build a statewide professional development system. Just a couple of committees that I serve on include the ECI Professional Development Component Group Steering Committee and the Positive Behavior Supports Leadership Team.

Prior to this work, I served as the Executive Director of a non-profit domestic violence/sexual assault agency for eight years. During that time, I was involved in the development of competency standards for advocates and a credentialing system through the Iowa Coalitions of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. I continue to support anti-violence work through service on the Board of Directors for the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

I served five years in the U.S. Army before finishing my college education which includes a BA (psychology & sociology) from William Penn University and a MS (sociology) from Oklahoma State University. I live in Oskaloosa with my husband and two children (Jessica, 5, and Samuel, 15).

Nancy Duey — I have been active in the early childhood field for nearly 40 years, including teaching, child care program development, training and providing professional for a wide range of early childhood professionals and parents, program coordination of grant programs, including Head Start, Shared Visions, Empowerment and our district child care partners. I have authored the district federal and state early childhood program grants and our two Early Reading First grants and state-funded universal preschool grant. I serve on child care center board and have served on the Dallas County Empowerment Board for over seven years.

- Been in the early childhood field for nearly 40 years.
- Taught in a variety of quality early childhood settings, including child care centers in Dallas, Texas and Kansas City, Missouri.
- Established an early childhood center for Avila College, Kansas City, Missouri
- Taught kindergarten for over 10 years
- Taught Head Start for Drake University and Des Moines Public Schools
- Served as Education Coordinator and Program Coordinator for Drake Head Start
- Served as Head Start Program Coordinator for Des Moines Public Schools
- Author of 2 Early Reading First Grants for Des Moines Public Schools-
- Author of the district Universal Preschool grant serving currently nearly 1,200 preschoolers
- Author of Head Start, Shared Visions, Empowerment, state wraparound preschool grants
- Currently the district Early Childhood Program Administrator

Delora Jespersen Hade --This is my fifth year as an instructor in the Early Childhood Education program at Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC). Before coming to DMACC, I was a T/TA Specialist for Iowa with the Region VII Head Start training and technical assistance system based in Raytown, MO. I have had a variety of other interesting positions in the field, including operating a family day care home, working with various ages of children in a child care center, teaching kindergarten, and working as a trainer and assistant director at the Head Start Staff Development Center in Marshalltown. I have a bachelor's and master's degree in Child Development, and a Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies with an ECE emphasis, all from Iowa State. I live in Ames with my husband, Dave, our son Sawyer (when are children supposed to move out?) and our two dogs (why oh why?) and a cat in our lovely little house in the woods.

Sally Hartley— Sally has always lived in Iowa and graduated from Iowa State University with a BS in Child Development. She earned a MS from Iowa State University with emphasis in Adult education. Sally taught kindergarten for 2 years, infant/toddler programming for 2 years, and preschool for 7 years. She also worked in “Before and After School” lab school as a graduate assistant at Iowa State and in the Sioux City area for a total of 3 years.

Sally has worked at NWAEA for 23 years as an early interventionist for Birth to 3 years and classroom consultant. Sally taught some night classes at Western Iowa Tech for 2 years and at Morningside College for 17 years. Both were in early childhood field and she also supervised student teachers. Sally currently coordinates Every Child Reads for NWAEA and provides training in Early Childhood with others. Sally served for 5 years on Iowa State Empowerment Board and also served on local empowerment area boards. She is currently on board of Community Action Agency of Siouxland. She worked for 4 years as a Validator with NAEYC Accreditation process and currently assists with QPPS training at local level and has been part of Verification process for 4-year-old funded programs.

Susan Hegland — Susan Hegland received her Ph. D. in Developmental Psychology from The Ohio State University. She has been involved in teaching, research, evaluation, and consultation in early care and education for over 30 years. She is currently an Associate Professor in Human Development and Family Studies at Iowa State University, where she serves as Director of Early Childhood Education and Coordinator for the Child Development Laboratory School. Her research has focused on factors that influence the quality of early care and education, and the impact of early care and education programs on children and families.

Penny Lingle—

Education

- Bachelor's degree from Graceland University, Lamoni, Iowa
- Master of Public Administration from Drake University, Iowa.
- Additional graduate work at UCLA

Experience

- Director of West Central Community Action Head Start in ten counties
- Director of New Opportunities, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start in seven counties
- Executive Director Denison Chamber of Commerce
- Statewide Training Coordinator – Office of Child Care Services State of South Dakota
- College instructor
- Computer programmer

Additional Information

- 2007 graduate of the Head Start Johnson & Johnson Management Fellows Program at UCLA
- Member of the National Head Start Association
- Member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children
- Member of the Iowa Head Start Association and current president
- Served on South Dakota’s Even Start Advisory Council
- Served on the National Advisory Council for the Free to Grow Project, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Served on South Dakota Children’s Coalition
- Served on the South Dakota Child Care and Early Education Alliance
- Member of the National Child Care Apprentice Association
- Served on the South Dakota Early Childhood Council
- Served on the South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines Team
- South Dakota Apprenticeship Mentor Trainer
- Certified in WestEd PITC
- Environment Rating Scale Trainer
- Mother Goose Trainer
- Reach Out and Read Trainer

Barb Merrill — Barb is the Executive Director of the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children and the Project Manager for T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood IOWA. Barb has her bachelor's degree in Child Development from the University of Maine, and her master's degree in Adult Education from Drake University. She has worked in the field of early care and education for thirty years, including teaching in child care and Head Start, providing family child care, directing a child care center, coordinating training at CCR&R, providing home visitation in a PAT program, and instructing at the college level. She currently serves on the Early Childhood Iowa Council, State Child Care Advisory Council, and the Early Access Council.

Geri McMahon — This is my 10th year as a licensure consultant for the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners. I work with the colleges that offer the early childhood endorsements as well as the teachers who are trying to add an early childhood endorsement to their teaching license. I also work with teacher assistance that are obtaining their paraeducator certificate as a generalist and early childhood area of concentration. Prior to working with the BOEE, I worked as a Title I Program Director for the Nebraska Department of Education and then for the Iowa Department of Education as a Title I and Migrant Education Consultant. I served as an elementary teacher on the Omaha Indian reservation in Walthill, Nebraska. In northwest, Iowa I taught preschool and was the director of a preschool and daycare. I hold a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and a Master of Science in Education from Wayne State College. I live in the Des Moines area and have two wonderful children that are currently in kindergarten and second grade.

Carla A. Peterson — Dr. Peterson has worked with early childhood programs including Head Start and Early Head Start, early childhood special education (ECSE), and child care for over 30 years. She joined the faculty of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Iowa State University (ISU) in 1992 and teaches in the early childhood teacher education program and teaches graduate courses. Dr. Peterson is collaborating with faculty colleagues at ISU on an ECSE Leadership personnel preparation project. Dr. Peterson has conducted numerous research and evaluation projects; most of these projects have been completed in collaboration with community-based agencies and with faculty members from other universities. She is working with a team at ISU on a project designed to enhance mathematics instruction in preschool classrooms and has collaborated with a faculty member at the University of Northern Iowa to conduct an evaluation of the Iowa's Shared Visions Programs which serve preschool-aged children who are at risk for poor developmental outcomes. Currently, she is working with a team at ISU to provide coaching support to child care programs implementing positive behavior supports. She collaborated with the Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc. on Project HOME (Home Observation to Measure Effectiveness) and the Early Head Start Research and Evaluation Project. She collaborated with faculty members at ISU and four other universities on the Midwest Child Care Research Consortium.

Dr. Peterson serves on several state-wide committees including the Iowa Child Development Coordinating Council and the Program-Wide Positive Behavior Supports Statewide Planning Team. She serves as an administrative law judge for special education.

Dr. Peterson has extensive experience working as a field-based professional as well. Dr. Peterson has worked as an early childhood teacher in a Head Start program, in child care centers, and in a public school program providing ECSE services. In addition, she has administrative experience in child care and ECSE settings.

Dr. Peterson received her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, in Educational Psychology (1991)

Carol Rainforth — Carol Rainforth has been employed by Child Care Resource and Referral of Central Iowa since 1997. Carol has served as the Regional Training Coordinator for CCR&R of Central Iowa for the past 5 years. This experience and prior professional assignments including work as an early childhood education consultant, directing an NAEYC accredited child care center, teaching preschool, and teaching first grade have deepened Carol’s commitment to influencing the quality of educational and developmental experiences for young children through supporting efforts to improve professional development opportunities in the field.

Jill Uhlenberg — I am currently the Interim Head of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI). I have been at UNI for 19 years. Previous to this year, I spent two years as the Coordinator of the Early Childhood Division within the C&I department. Before that, I spent 15 years as the Director of the Child Development Center on campus, a full-day program serving children of students, faculty and staff. Children in the center are birth to kindergarten age. I supervised 12 lead teachers and approximately 80 student assistants, plus the hundreds of students who passed through our 4 classrooms each year to observe and/or teach lessons. The CDC is also a site for faculty research. Throughout my years at UNI I have taught classes in Early Childhood Education. I have also been active as a presenter at many levels, have been an NAEYC validator and commissioner, and have served as a president of a national organization for campus children’s centers.

I hold a BA in Elementary Education and two MAE degrees—Early Childhood Education and Education of the Gifted—all from UNI. My PhD is from the University of Iowa in Iowa City. My husband John and I live in rural La Porte City where he farms and hauls grain in the off-season. We are parents of four grown children, and we have three grandchildren—2 three-year-olds and 1 five-year-old—who live much too far away (Kansas City and Denver, CO)!

Terry Wangberg —Terry Wangberg is the Director of the TriUMPH Early Childhood Program at Southwestern Community College in Creston Iowa. The TriUMPH Program is a professional development and quality improvement project supporting early care and education programs in the AEA 14 area. The program targets center-based programs in Clarke, Decatur, Ringgold, Lucas, and Union counties.

Terry holds an MBA in marketing, with additional graduate course work in Early Childhood Education and Human Development & Family Studies. Her past work experience includes: toddler & preschool teacher, childbirth educator, play therapist, and Head Start Disabilities and Health Coordinator.

Her current administrative position includes: development and implementation of credit and non-credit early childhood programming; strategic planning, grant writing and budgeting; as well as, staff development and supervision. She is also a member of the T.E.A.C.H. Advisory Committee, the CDA Advisory Committee, the Community College Early Childhood Alliance, State PW-PBS Leadership Advisory Committee and the Iowa & Region VII Head Start boards.