

Colorado Content Collaboratives

Cohort II – Content Area Researchers Career and Technical Education, Comprehensive Health, Mathematics, Physical Education, Science & World Languages

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Matt Fleck is an education professional with more than 18 years experience, most recently as Indiana's State CTE Director, where he managed CTE programs in 48 area districts with enrollments totaling 130,000 students and an annual budget topping \$25 million dollars. Matt also coordinated the development of Indiana's College and Career Pathways which allow every graduate to earn free college credits or industry-based certifications through realigned courses, standards and end-of-pathway assessments. Over the years, Matt has directed efforts to integrate Common Core State Standards into the CTE standards, developed a performance-based Perkins incentive program, and analyzed CTE's statewide return on investment.

As a trained school counselor, Matt has also worked as a high school counselor and as the State K-12 School Counseling Specialist at the Indiana Department of Education. Currently, Matt is working across the state in developing evaluation instruments and resources for school counselors and other student services personnel.

Matt lives in Zionsville, Indiana.

Jennifer Y. Grams has 15 years of experience in the government and non-profit sectors. She has served as the Assistant Town Administrator in Brookline, Massachusetts and as a Group Administrator at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Other positions include: Budget Analyst for the City of Boston and Assistant Press Secretary at the Ohio House of Representatives. Jennifer earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Columbia University and her undergraduate degree from Denison University.

Ms. Grams' work with Meeder Consulting focuses on innovative practices between education and business, technical skill assessment systems, and CTE program accountability.

Thom Suddreth has been involved with education for over fifteen years. After a successful career in the construction industry as a business owner he transitioned into the consulting field. Thom has worked as a trainer and consultant in the corporate world as well as the arena of education. He has provided services to a variety of clients including FedEx, Cintas, Shaw Industries, Southern Company, Holder Construction, Georgia Power, Alabama Power and many others. He has also trained educators in the Technical College System of Georgia, South Carolina Department of Education, Tennessee Department of Education and Georgia Department of Education.

Thom has worked closely with the Lt. Governor's Office in Georgia, providing support for education initiatives. He is a Professional Development Provider for Ford Next Generation Learning working with career academies in the state of Georgia. Thom also specializes in email marketing and produces newsletters for the Georgia Ford NGL Hub, Ford Next Generation Learning (National), the Georgia College and Career Academy Network as well as Meeder Consulting.

He has served as the business advisor for the Georgia State Tech Prep Steering Team and held the position of Chair for the North Metro Tech Prep Consortium, serving in each position for six years. Thom holds a BBA in Business Management from Kennesaw State University and currently resides in Kennesaw, Georgia.

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH

Tami Benham Deal, PED, is a professor in the Division of Kinesiology and Health at the University of Wyoming. Dr. Benham Deal has received nearly \$790,000.00 in contracts and grants to support her scholarship and has published numerous articles on standards-based health and physical education, health literacy in school age youth, physical activity in young children, and parental influences on children and adolescents' physical activity. She served as physical and health education consultant to the Wyoming Department of Education from 2004 to 2011. In her professional development workshops teachers learn how to align their curriculum, instruction, and assessment to standards and how to use assessment to inform instruction. Dr. Benham Deal has been active at the national scene by serving on executive boards for the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) State Collaborative on Assessment of Student Standards (SCASS) Health Education Project (HEAP) and presenting workshops and presentations at national conferences on health literacy in 21st century schools. In recognition of her service contributions, she received the 2002 WAHPERD Pax Ricketts Award, 2005 College of Health Science's 2005 Meritorious Service Award from the University of Wyoming, and 2006 Endwright Distinguished Alumni Award from Indiana University School of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. In addition to working with pre-service teachers and practitioners, Dr. Benham Deal especially enjoys the challenges and rewards of teaching through distance education and was presented the 2007 Innovations in Teaching Award by her college.

MATHEMATICS

David C. Webb, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction in the University of Colorado at Boulder School of Education. A former middle and high school mathematics and computer science teacher, Dr. Webb's research interests are in the preparation of STEM teachers, teachers' design and use of classroom assessment, and the design of professional development activities to develop teacher expertise in classroom assessment. Recent research projects have focused on studies of teacher change in classroom assessment practices and teacher design and use of formative assessment tools.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Nick Cutforth, Ph.D., taught physical education for 11 years in schools in Liverpool, London, Chicago, and Denver. Since 1994 he has been Professor in the Research Methods and Statistics Program in the Morgridge College of Education at the University of Denver. More recently he has joined the faculty of the Colorado School of Public Health at the University of Colorado Denver. He received his PhD from the University of Illinois at Chicago where he studied with Don Hellison. Nick is co-author of *Youth Development and Physical Activity: Linking Universities with Communities* (Human Kinetics, 2000) and has published over 20 articles in physical education journals. In 2010, Nick co-founded the San Luis Valley Physical Education Academy, funded by the Colorado Health Foundation, which is a 3-year professional development program in the San Luis Valley's 14 school districts designed to improve the quality of K-12 physical education.

SCIENCE

Steven McGee, Ph.D., is a research associate professor of learning sciences at Northwestern University and is president of The Learning Partnership, an educational consulting small business. He has over twenty-five years of experience in STEM education reform. He is currently focused on the development of STEM teacher, who can lead data-driven curriculum reform in Chicago Public schools. Dr. McGee is also focused on role of research experiences in promoting low-incomes students' pursuit careers in science. He serves as the outside assessment specialist and evaluator for a wide range of NSF, U.S. Department of Education, and NASA funded initiatives. He has led projects through the full range of steps in the assessment development and validation process. Dr. McGee is the former director of the NASA Classroom of the Future, where he led the development technology-based curricula and assessments based on NASA missions. He is a former educational technology specialist for Addison-Welsey, a K-12 school division of Pearson. He has taught STEM topics at both elementary and high school. Dr. McGee has a doctorate in the learning sciences from Northwestern University and an M.B.A. from Wheeling Jesuit University.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Ann Tollefson is a national consultant in the development, implementation, and evaluation of world-language programs. She served as the world-language content specialist for the Wyoming Department of Education, a district-level world-language supervisor, and a high school teacher of French. She also served as the project director of five projects funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, four FLAP grants, and a Fulbright-Hayes Group Project Abroad to West Africa. She served twice as President of PNCFL and was President of American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) in 1997. She was named Wyoming Teacher of the Year in 1983 and

received the ACTFL Florence Steiner Award for Leadership in K-12 Foreign Language Education in 2002. She is currently the Outside Evaluator of the Utah Dual Language Immersion Program, the Delaware Governor's World Language Expansion Initiative, the National Chinese Flagship Consortium, and district programs in five states.