



Responses to candidate questionnaires

Responses are unedited, presented as received up to the allowable word count



Silvia D. Scaife

Candidate for Board Director

1. Describe the leadership experiences you have had. Include significant accomplishments at the local, state, and or/national levels.

In my current position as Career Technical director, I had to return to the classroom to teach for several weeks until a teacher for that position was secured. I was asked by a colleague, "Why are you back in a class?" to which I simply replied, "If leaders, find it difficult or impossible to occasionally stand in the footsteps of their followers, then it may becomes difficult and impossible to be a strong and effective leader.

- Career Technical Director for Auburn City Schools System
- EdTA Board Member (2021)
- Alabama State Department of Education Mentor
- Alabama Thespians Performance Coordinator
- Former Theatre/Drama Club Coordinator (18+ years)
- Language Arts Middle Curriculum Coordinator
- Top Five Finalist for Alabama Teacher of the Year
- Teacher of the Year at three different grade levels: Elementary (2006), Middle (2011), and High School (2020)

2. Share other information about yourself (education, personal and/or professional experiences, publications, awards, personal strengths, etc.) that you think would make you a qualified candidate and benefit the EdTA Board of Directors.

I've always had a mystical capacity to simultaneously wear many hats quite well.

I come from a family where I was taught to dream big and work towards making those dreams come true. I strive to do my best at whatever task given to me.

I continue to give my best as an ACS' educator/administrator with more than 24 years experience where I've tapped into the hearts of students across the spectrum from first graders



in reading circles to 12th graders aspiring to be entrepreneurs, journalists, lawyers, physicians, and yes, actors!

I believe and model that the continual process of gaining and sharing knowledge is a MUST for growth. This had been demonstrated by obtaining:

- BA Communication
- BS Elementary Education
- Masters Elementary Education
- Educational Specialist
- PhD. Curriculum & Instruction

Don't be fooled! I am a down-to-earth person whose joy comes from my Savior, family, friends, and self-love.

3. The EdTA Governing Board establishes policy guiding the Executive Director, staff and members to develop programs which advance our mission. Explain how you could help the Board forward EdTA's mission and strategic priorities.

My experience as a former theatre teacher and director for more than 12 years and my current role as a career technical education director should be viewed as a strength to place more emphasis on technical theatre aspects. Nationally, the workforce industry seeks to employ dependable and knowledgeable individuals. The world of theatre is no exception. What an incredible opportunity for theatre and career tech to truly merge and offer more intentional pathways and pipelines leading to industry-recognized credentials for those students who love theatre yet may/may not fully embody performance skills but abound in technical skills and talents! This is a vision I share with theatre education and EdTA!

4. Why are you interested in serving and please describe your aspirations?

I was selected to be a board member only a few months ago! I'll let the lyrics of a popular song by The Carpenters say it for me...

"...Sharing horizons that are new to us
Watching the signs along the way
Talkin' it over, just the two (few) of us
Workin' together day to day
And when the evening comes, we smile
So much of life ahead
We'll find a place where there's room to grow
(And yes, we've just begun)"

I've only just begun...and I would be honored to continue to serve as an EdTA Board Member!

5. How have you committed yourself to understanding and aiding in the pursuit of equity and inclusion in your professional and/or personal life?

Everyday I am presented with challenges and opportunities to put in practice equity and inclusion. Metaphorically speaking, I understand that the hungry child who chooses not to eat a meal that's provided for him is vastly different than the hungry child who doesn't know from where his next



meal will come...and that I should not prejudge, but prepare in such ways that whosoever is "hungry", has the opportunity to come to the table to be fed!

I try to live with an imaginary tools in my imaginary pocket as a reminder that at any given point on any given day, there will be something that I will need to adjust, whether it's using those tools for raising my expectations, lowering my biases, unscrewing the panels of my tunneled vision, tightening my compassion for others or dismantling obstacles that prohibit success for the greater good!

Silvia D. Scaife, PhD

EDUCATION

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| Educational Leadership Auburn University, Auburn, AL | December 2017 |
| PhD in Curriculum and Teaching Auburn University, Auburn, AL <u>Dissertation Title:</u> “How and In What Ways Does Homogeneous Small Group Instruction in Reading Influence Struggling Middle School Readers and Their Attitudes Toward Reading” <u>Committee:</u> Theresa McCormick, Chippewa Thomas, David Shannon | May 2011 |
| Educational Specialist Degree Auburn University, Auburn, AL | December 2005 |
| Masters in Elementary Education Troy State University, Phenix City, AL | August 2005 |
| Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education Auburn University, Auburn, AL | January 1996 |
| Bachelor of Arts in Communication Auburn University, Auburn, AL | August 1991 |

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

McCormick, T., Boyd, P., **Scaife, S.**, (2005, February). “*Graduate Studies Cohort for Elementary Teachers: New Direction for Professional Development*,” *Journal of Research in Education* (2007), Volume 17.

McCormick, T., **Scaife, S.**, (2006, February 18-22). *University Professors and Classroom Teachers: Partners in Professional Growth and Change*. Mini-symposium on Advocacy Through Engagement: The School Community Collaborative Imperative in Educating ALL Children, 2006 Annual Association of Teacher Educators Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Dagley, P., Eick, C., Womack, J., **Scaife, S.** (2009, March). *K-12 Partnerships with Colleges and Universities*. Mini-symposium on School-University Partnerships, National Association for Professional Development Schools, Daytona, FL.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Auburn City Schools Career and Technical Education Director,
Auburn City Schools, Auburn, AL

TEACHING and MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Ninth – Twelfth Grade Television Production Instructor,
Auburn High School, Auburn, AL

Seventh Grade Theatre & Broadcast Teacher,
East Samford School, Auburn, AL
J. F. Drake Middle School, Auburn, AL

Sixth Grade Language Arts Teacher,
J. F. Drake Middle School, Auburn, AL

Third Grade Teacher,
Wrights Mill Road Elementary School, Auburn, AL

First Grade Teacher,
Wrights Mill Road Elementary School, Auburn, AL

MENTORING and PARTNERSHIP

Alabama Career Technical Education State Mentor

Alabama Thespians Mentor for Jeff Davis High School Theatre

**Auburn High School-Auburn University School of Communication, Media,
Journalism Partnership**

RESEARCH INTERESTS

School/Community Partnerships, Student Engagement, Mentoring, Collaboration

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE & INFORMATION

Program Creator/Coordinator

J. F. Drake Middle School: **Theatre Department** (July 2007-May 2016)

J. F. Drake Middle School: **Ambassador/Broadcast Team Program** (June 2009-May 2016)

J. F. Drake **Financial Literacy Coordinator** (June 2010-April 2016)

East Samford School: **Ambassador/Broadcast Team Program** (June 2017-May 2018)

- Created, planned, and coordinated all aspects of each performance and the program's activities
- Delegated tasks to colleagues and interns in coordinating productions/annual events
- Prepared paperwork and ordered rehearsal materials
- Ensured implementation of policies and practices
- Handled the project related financial administration by monitoring project's budget and tracking expenditures/transactions
- Managed communications through media relations, social media, etc.
- Built positive relations among the students, parents, faculty and external stakeholders
- Conducted weekly briefings with team members to ensure maximum efficiency
- Kept updated records and created reports or proposals
- Kept all members of the organization up to date with relevant and current information
- Scheduled and organized meetings/events and maintained an agenda for committee members
- Ensured that technology was used often and correctly for all operations (lighting, sound, projectors, editing software, etc.)
- Supported growth and program development through annual recruitment events and supplied informational materials that ensured better communication and understanding of each program created, developed, and sustained

Hi-Def Club at Auburn High School (August 2018-Present)

- Recruited advisory committee members, planned meetings, managed a membership base of 25 students
- Organized club involvement in regional and state competitions and conferences

Alabama Thespians Performance Coordinator

- Work with State Director and Festival Coordinator to plan and organize the festival
- Provide production and technical guidelines to judges and directors
- Secure qualified judges for competition portion of the festival
- Communicate effectively and efficiently with high school directors and coordinators regarding daily performance schedules and other urgent requests
- Maintain and update changes as needed

Auburn High School/Auburn University Sports Production

COMPUTER and other SKILLS

Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher)

Proficient in Final Cut Pro X

Experience with Adobe Premiere Pro and Photoshop

Technologically proficient in video conferencing

Skills

- Impeccable mentoring, teamwork, and collaborative skills
- Impeccable flexibility skills
- Strong written and oral communication skills
- Strong analytical and problem-solving capabilities
- Grant writing experience

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/COMMITTEES

- Alabama Scholastic Press Association (former Secretary)
- Alabama Skills USA Professional Member
- Alabama Thespians Performance Coordinator
- Auburn City Schools Strategic Planning Committee
- Auburn High School Technology Committee
- Auburn University College of Education National Advisory Council (NAC)
- PDK (Phi Delta Kappa)
- ACS/AU Leadership Capacity Building Program
- ACTA (Alabama Career Technical Administrators)
- AEA (Alabama Education Association)
- CLAS (Council of Leaders in Alabama Schools)
- Delta Epsilon Iota (Academic Honor Society)
- EdTA (Education Theatre Association) Board Member
- ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education)
- NEA (National Education Association)

HONORS / AWARDS

- 2021 Eagle Award Recipient from Auburn Chamber of Commerce
- 2021 Educators Workforce Academy Recipient
- 2006-2007 State Finalist for Alabama Teacher of the Year
- F.A.C.E.S. Showcase Auburn Grant (Highest grant awarded)
- Bob Dumas Honorary FACES Grant Recipient for Auburn City Schools

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- P.A.C.E. (People of Action for Community Enrichment)

- Girls Scout Volunteer Parent/Assistant Leader
- Project Graduation Chairperson

GRANTS

- 2021 Middle Grades Innovation Grant
- F.A.C.E.S. Showcase Auburn Grant (Highest grant awarded)
- Mid-South Resource Conservation Grant
- Wal-Mart School Improvement Grant