



Responses to candidate questionnaires

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



Teri Turner

Candidate for Board Director

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

Thirteen years of high school and middle school teaching experience, leadership experience, doesn't top being an educator during the current pandemic. Using keywords like pivot, flexible, trauma do not even begin to describe how a teacher has been through in the two years. Prior to the pandemic, my leadership experiences took a step forward when I was elected to the Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri Board of Directors. From then, it was a whirlwind as I took on the role of President of STAM, served as apart from EdTA's Advocacy Leadership Network, Missouri Thespian Executive Board, and the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education Board of Directors. As part of my role with the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education, I also served as the Show-Me Summit Chair, an event which served as a way to train and educate students on how to advocate on behalf of arts education.

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.

As a mother of four and an educator, juggling is a huge part of my skill set. It has always been important to me to be a parent and to also show my own children what it looks like to be a professional working mom. Through my roles, I have been awarded the Judith Rethwisch Outstanding Educator Award from the Missouri Thespians, EdTA Volunteer of the Year award as apart from the Advocacy Leadership Network, and the Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri Outstanding Service Award.

As a current working educator, every day is a new day, but it is hard to forget about the day before. The trauma of working during this pandemic is almost suffocating but, serving on the EdTA board as an educator voice is essential to moving forward and repairing what has been lost.



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.

Progressing EdTA's Mission is always what we must circle around to when developing new ideas and projects to benefit the membership when struck with the newest education trend or a rise against our field. Advocacy is the biggest way we can continue to support and engage members and stakeholders in our organization. We must continue to shout from the rooftops what we do for students that other fields do not offer in ways of social emotional learning, practical cross curricular skills, even inclusiveness and equality. Another way to continue to spread the mission is to present at conferences that compliment EdTA's mission. Organizations like the After-School Alliance, Gifted Education, Boys and Girls Club of America, etc. offer programs to their students in the area of theatre as they see the benefit of theatre to their membership. This could be another way to reach an array of potential future diverse volunteers.

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

Pouring the milk first in a bowl of cereal is what teaching could be compared to as an educator. The milk is the basis of what we do in education, but the cereal is always changing. We are here to serve others as we serve our students day in and day out, in spite of our own needs. We became educators to inspire and guide those who need direction into theatre. As a mom, educator, volunteer, advocate, my interest in serving on the EdTA Board of Directors is to not only support with the "milk" of education but to ensure teachers are supported whatever the cereal may look like for them, their students, and programs. We are here to serve theatre educators who are trying to do it all as well as take care of themselves; we need other educators to have their back in a position to make change.

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

Uncomfortable strides have to be made in order for all to find equity and inclusion in our society. Educating ourselves, holding others accountable, and listening are what needs to be done in order for REAL change to occur.

As a part of the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education, I joined the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee which is reaching out to educators to listen as to the why, creating lists of literature, contacting our state activities association with regard to inclusivity in literature and rules, hosting webinars for educators and this is just the beginning.

Not only did the pandemic spotlight the issue of equity and access, but really thrust the issues of diversity and inclusion into the hands of those who can make some positive change, which is us. WE have to be the driving force that makes the change. We cannot wait for someone else to do it.

Teri Turner

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Education, December 2007
University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO
Major/Minor: **Speech and Theatre Education/ Psychology**
G.P.A. 3.00/3.35

WORK

EXPERIENCE

Grain Valley School District, Grain Valley, MO (2020-present)
Middle School Speech/Theatre Teacher (2020-present)
Jefferson City School District, Jefferson City, MO (2019-2020)
High School Social Studies Teacher (2019-present)
Sedalia School District #200, Sedalia, MO (2009-2019)
High School Speech/Theatre Teacher (2011-present) 660-851-5300
High School Speech and Debate Coach (2011-2016)
High School Director of Theatre Productions(2011-present)
Jr. High Speech/Theatre/Reading Teacher (2009-2011)
Jr. High Speech and Debate Coach (2009-2011)
Jr. High Director of Theatre Productions(2009-2011)

HONORS

Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri (2006-present)
-Board of Directors (2013-present)
-Scholarship Committee (2013-2014)
-Scholarship Committee Chair (2014)
-Advocacy Committee (2013-2016)
-Vice-President Elect (2015-2016)
-Vice President (2016-2017)
- President (2017-2019)
- Past President (2019-present)
Missouri State Thespians Educator of the Year (2015)
Smith-Cotton High School Teacher of the Year (2015 and 2017)
Advocacy Leadership Network- Educational Theatre Association
Educational Theatre Association Volunteer of the Year (2018)
Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri- Service Award (2020)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Advocacy Leadership Network (2017-present)
Missouri Alliance for Arts Education (2015-present)
Show-Me Summit Chair (2017-2021)
Sedalia Community Theatre Committee (2012-present)