



RESPONSES TO CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Responses are unedited, presented to the allowable word count.



BRIANA NAVARRO

Candidate for Board Director

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

I am a proud teacher leader in the Connect Arts Network, CAN grant, which strives to implement teacher PLC and implementing DEI and SEL in an arts classroom. I have lead CAN and my own SEL/DEI session at EdTA conferences. I have been nominated for the Tony Award; Excellence in the Theatre Education. I was also asked to be on my state's Thespian Board to where I focus on DEI and SEL within the chapter. At my own school I have developed the theatre program from one class and one student to full time theatre with a thriving after school theatre production club. I also lead the 11th and 12th grade advisory class, which helps students meet the state requirements for high school graduation. I plan, organize presentation schedule and help teachers help students meet the state deadlines.

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 am passionate about being a group leader and making sure that all voices are heard. My personal strength is making sure the needs of everyone is met while accomplishing a goal in a timely matter. I am extremely passionate about everything that I do and put my all into it. I strive to have students succeed and this is shown by the fact that I also teach AP Biology course in my district. I am able to break down the scientific language for students to be able to relate and understand the information to be able to pass state and college board tests. My passion for teachers and students to do their best in whatever they do is shown through my many accomplishments and duties assigned to me at my school. I am also the teacher that other teachers come to for advice, help and pick me up.

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.

I would help the board to forward EdTA's mission by creating a partnership with different stakeholders such as different state/nation agencies, technology companies that share a similar goals. I would want to also evaluate and gather data/feedback on how we are surveying our underrepresented communities and how our low income schools have access to theatre education as well as the great events and resources EdTA provides. I can assist in identifying regions or communities where there is a need for theatre education programs to increase diversity and access, and provide insights into emerging technologies for educational purposes. I would also be a great person who can create or mend relationships with stakeholders to make theatre education a forefront, with my belief that theatre education not only helps students discover who they are but also will help them in the work place in the future.

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

I have committed myself to understanding and aiding in the pursuit of equity and inclusion in my professional and personal life by taking. step back and really seeing how my classes and programs run. I have worked with the CAN group and have learn and delve into my teaching and what could be inequitable as well as what I am doing is equitable. I have learned from various speakers that the group brought in that has opened my eyes to equity and inclusion in my classroom. I have found ways to have more student voice and choice within my lessons. I have created a playwriting action project that focused on DEIA and SEL in the classroom and have brought it to the TEC conference and presented/shared with other colleagues and had had great reviews, as well as things to think about. I am always learning new ways of understanding.

Briana Navarro

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Awards and Recognition

- Nominated for Theatre Teacher Excellence Tony Award - 2023
- C.A.N. Project participant - Grant funded national theater educator through EdTA
- Associate Board Member - Washington State Thespians

Professional Experience

Clover Park School District | Lakewood, WA

July 2010 – Present

Theatre Arts and Advanced Placement (AP) Biology Teacher, Junior and Senior Advisor Lead

- Taught high school Intro to Drama, Advanced Drama, Stagecraft, and AP Biology, expanding the drama class from 1 student to full-time enrollment, excluding AP Biology.
- Led the 11th-grade level, overseeing academic and personal development of students.
- led and managed 11th and 12th-grade advisory teams, fostering a supportive and productive environment for both teachers and students
- Developed and delivered training sessions for teachers on advisory materials, ensuring consistent and effective implementation of the program
- played a crucial role in guiding and supporting students to meet graduation requirements, providing mentorship and academic assistance as needed
- collaborated with school administration to develop and implement strategies to enhance the advisory program's impact on student success
- Orchestrated senior presentations and advisory classes, guiding seniors in post-high school planning.
- Directed after-school drama activities, fostering creativity and teamwork among students.
- Participated in the Connected Arts Network, collaborating with educators nationwide to integrate Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and DEI principles into the theatre classroom.

Conference Presentation:

- Theatre Educator Conference
 - Implementing SEL and DEI in Playwriting
 - September 28th, 2023
 - St. Petes, Florida
- International Theatre Festival
 - You CAN, We CAN
 - June 21, 2023
 - Bloomington, Indiana
- Theatre Educator Conference
 - CAN workshop
 - September 30, 2022
 - Las Angeles, California

Key Accomplishments:

- Ensured equitable casting practices, disregarding race or gender in role assignments.
- Developed interventions and celebrations in collaboration with fellow teachers to support student success.
- Actively engaged in professional development, attending multiple trainings by renowned speakers.
- Designed curriculum integrating DEI and SEL concepts for theatre teachers.

- Conducted action research addressing SEL and DEI needs within the school.
- Ability to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of diverse learners, as AP classes have a wide range of student abilities

Collaborations and Partnerships:

- Collaborated with the Education Theatre Association, National Association for Music Education, National Art Education Association, and National Dance Association to promote inclusive arts education.
- Collaborated with the Washington State Thespians to establish a Teacher Professional Learning Community (PLC) focused on DEI and SEL in the classroom.
- Worked with the school district to develop additional resources for teachers to implement DEI and SEL principles effectively.
- Collaborate with National Math Science Institute (NMSI) to give opportunities and improve science instruction for students

Professional Development:

- Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)
- Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom by Dr. Bettina Love
- Using Formative Peer Feedback and Self-assessment to Create an Inclusive Community and Build SEL Skills by Heidi Andrade
- The Work Begins with Us: Using Theatre Tools to Build Inclusive Classrooms
- Building a Consent-Based Space
- Behind the Scenes: Tech Theatre Curriculum with Apps
- Diversity in the Classroom: Black Acting Methods with Sharrell Lockett Kash
- Respect Differences: Challenging Common Guidelines in Social Justice Education
- Anti-Oppressive Facilitation for Democratic Process
- Inclusion Expertise for the Arts and Entertainment Industry by Bliss Griffin

Evaluation and Impact:

- Evaluated and proposed changes to the adjudication process for theatre competitions to ensure equity and fairness.
- Implemented progress checks using scenarios to assess students' responses and measure shifts in school culture.

Responsibilities and Achievements:

- Implemented strategies to address and reduce student opportunity gaps, focusing on equity in classroom resources, tailored instruction for diverse learners and listening to student wants and needs
- Collaborated with colleagues and school leadership to develop and implement initiatives aimed at promoting educational equity
- Monitored student progress and worked individually with at-risk students to provide additional support and close achievement gaps

Education

Capella University - Minneapolis, MN - PhD - Leadership in Higher Education - Application in progress
 Western Governors University - Salt Lake City, Utah - Masters - Curriculum and Instruction - June 2023
 Pacific Lutheran University – Tacoma, Washington - Masters - Secondary Education - November 2011
 Pacific Lutheran University – Tacoma, Washington - Bachelors of Arts - May 2010

Skills

- Excellent capability to explain highly complicated ideas to members of all levels
- High capability to learn new technology quickly.
- Spearheaded and implemented comprehensive DEI strategies, resulting in a significant shift towards a more inclusive and equitable culture within the organization.
- Developed and delivered innovative professional development programs and training workshops, equipping educators and staff members with the knowledge and tools to create culturally responsive and inclusive learning environments.
- Led cross-functional teams and collaborated with external partners and stakeholders to develop and implement initiatives that fostered diversity, equity, and inclusion, resulting in improved student engagement and success.
- Conducted rigorous data analysis and evaluation of DEI initiatives, identifying areas for improvement and making data-driven decisions to drive systemic change and ensure measurable progress in diversity and inclusion outcomes.