

## **K-12 Programs Areas**

### **Helga Fasciano**

Helga Fasciano is the Section Chief for K-12 Program Areas, comprised of Arts Education, English as a Second Language, Health and Physical Education, and World Languages, in the K-12 Curriculum and Instruction Division. A graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne College and the University of Florida, Helga is a former teacher of German and French. She is actively involved in numerous initiatives and partnerships at national, state, and international levels in curriculum development, teacher education standards, formative assessment tools for students, and professional development activities for teachers.

### **Ann Marie G. Gunter**

Ann Marie serves as World Language Consultant to the NC Department of Public Instruction. She has taught French and English in K-16 classrooms, and is focused on standards development, support, and implementation. Current projects include NCDPI's ACRE program and RtT initiatives involving Essential Standards and a comprehensive balanced assessment system, which includes committee work with formative assessment, encompassing state and national LinguaFolio initiatives, along with involvement in the IIS work now underway.

### **Brenda Wheat Whiteman**

Brenda Wheat Whiteman is the A+ Arts Education Specialist for NCDPI. Prior to coming to DPI, Dr. Whiteman was an Assistant Professor at UNC Wilmington in the Department of Elementary, Middle Level, and Literacy Education, where she specialized in Arts Integration. She holds a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Texas at Austin, as well as a Master of Music Education and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Georgia. She maintains North Carolina educator certification in Elementary (K-6), Music (K-12), and Academically and Intellectually Gifted (K-12). She has a total of eleven years public school teaching experience, and nine years of experience at the university level teaching elementary education pre-service teachers.

### **Christie Lynch Ebert**

Christie is the Arts Education Consultant and Liaison to the A+ Schools Program for the NC Department of Public Instruction. Christie has a Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education from Meredith College and a Master of Music in Music Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Prior to joining NCDPI, she taught in the Wake County Public School System. Christie's current position at DPI is primarily focused on standards development, support, and implementation and developing and providing professional development opportunities for educators and administrators.

**Glenda Harrell**

Glenda Harrell is a Title III/ESL Consultant for NCDPI. Prior to coming to DPI, Glenda was the Director for ESL and Migrant Programs in Johnston County Schools. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology and Spanish from Appalachian State University and a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from NC State. Glenda currently is a doctoral candidate at NC State and is involved in educational research.

**Ivanna Mann Thrower**

Ivanna Mann Thrower is a Title III/ESL Consultant for NCDPI. Prior to coming to DPI, Ivanna worked in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from NCSU and a Master's in Teaching ESL from the School for International Training in Vermont. In addition to her ESL duties at DPI, she is one of the leads for RTI and has worked closely on NCFALCON and LinguaFolio.

**Joanne Marino**

Joanne Marino is an English as a Second Language (ESL) Consultant and Title III Director with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. She has a Master of Arts degree in Teaching ESL and is a National Board Certified Teacher. Joanne has taught all proficiency levels of ESL and all grades including university and adult education. In 2003 she was recognized for Teacher Excellence and Professionalism by the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA).