

Science Section

Beverly Vance

Beverly Vance has worked with the NCDPI for five years in the Division of Curriculum and Instruction. She currently serves as the Section Chief for the K-12 Science Section in the Division of Curriculum and Instruction. Prior to coming to NCDPI, she worked as an Education Consultant with NC State's Technical Outreach for Public Schools (TOPS) managing the test development process for the NC high school science end-of-course exams. As an educator, she has taught high school biology, earth/environmental science, physical science and middle school math and science for more than 12 years.

Debra Hall

Debra Hall is an Elementary Science Consultant with the Department of Public Instruction. I have been in education for fifteen years. She has worked as an elementary classroom teacher in eastern NC and as an elementary science specialist in Wake County. She is Nationally Board Certified and a Kenan Fellow Alumni. She currently is a science education consultant for the Department of Public Instruction and provide technical assistance and training to LEAs across the state concerning science education.

Donna Kenestrick

Donna Kenestrick has been a Science Consultant with DPI since January of 2010. She has held administrative, teaching, and support positions in a variety of school systems. Over the course of her 25+ years in education, Donna has received many awards, among them the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science teaching, National Board Certification, and - most recently- an Endeavor Fellowship through NASA and Teacher's College, Columbia, to specialize in STEM Education. Donna provides professional development and technical assistance focused on Science education to classroom teachers and school administrators throughout North Carolina. She is an alumnus of UNC Chapel Hill, City University of New York, and State University of New York. As a Portuguese Latina, she has a special interest in Science and STEM education for ELLs. An avid fiber artist and sewist, she can usually be found sewing, draping, and crafting in her home studio in her spare time.

Benita Tipton

Benita B. Tipton is a Science Consultant with the Division of Curriculum & Instruction at the NC Department of Public Instruction. She obtained a Master's in Science Education and a B.S. Degree in Biology from UNC-Pembroke. Prior to working at NCDPI, she taught biology at Scotland High School in Laurinburg, NC.

Jami Inman

Jami Inman has a BS Chemistry and MA Education. For 16 years she worked as a high school science teacher for physical science, chemistry and physics. For nine years she served as a curriculum specialist, for two years as a Grant Director for Math & Science Magnet Schools and most recently as a Secondary Science Consultant for NCDPI.

Ragan Spain

Ragan S. Spain is a High School Science Consultant in the K-12 Curriculum and Instruction Division of NCDPI. He has been with the agency since January of 2006. Prior to joining NCDPI, Ragan was a classroom teacher for 15 years. He taught a variety of science courses, but his specialty area is chemistry. Ragan is a National Board Certified Teacher (AYA Science 2001-present). He is a certified Brain-Based Instruction trainer and has extensive training in Cooperative Learning, Multiple Intelligences, and Learning Styles. Ragan is a member of ASCD,

NSTA, NCSLA, and NCSTA. He has served on the Board of Directors of NCSTA and is currently serving as President-Elect of NCSTA.

Social Studies Section

Fay Gore

Fay Gore currently serves as the Interim Section Chief for K-12 Social Studies and a middle grades consultant in the Division of Curriculum and Instruction at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI). In her role at DPI, Fay helps to set the vision for social studies in the state, assists districts with developing their local curriculum frameworks as well as identifies and creates resources to support social studies education. In addition to working for DPI, she has also worked as a secondary social studies teacher and an assessment consultant for North Carolina State University. She holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Master's degree from The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.

Jolene Ethridge

Jolene Ethridge is a K-5 Social Studies Consultant and has been with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for three years and nine months. Jolene Ethridge has a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, a master's degree in elementary education and an add-on certification in curriculum and supervision from East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina and an add-on certification in AIG (Academically/Intellectually Gifted).

Jolene Ethridge's past experiences in education include being an elementary classroom teacher and a K-5 AIG resource teacher. Ethridge has also worked at the central office level where her duties and responsibilities included: Coordinator of AIG programs K-12, Arts and Music programs K-12, District Director of AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) program for middle schools and high schools in the district. Other duties consisted of organizing Battle of the Books and Quiz Bowl for middle school students.

Michelle McLaughlin

Michelle McLaughlin serves as an education consultant for K-12 Social Studies with the Division of Curriculum and Instruction at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Michelle is a former high school social studies teacher who came to the agency after serving eight years as a local curriculum specialist in social studies. She possesses a Bachelor's of Science degree in Social Studies Education as well as a Master's of Teaching degree in History Education. As an educator, Michelle is constantly seeking effective ways to foster dynamic learning environments and to promote high quality teacher support and continuous improvement.