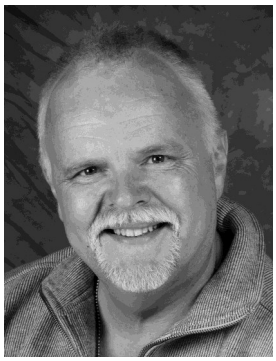
A+ Schools Program
of the North Carolina Arts Council

A+ Fellows and Apprentice Fellows

2014 Directory

Jan Adams studied ballet at the North Carolina School of the Arts. She danced with North Carolina Dance Theatre and was a dance captain for the National Tour of *A Chorus Line*, as well as a ballet mistress for the Ballet Theater of the Virgin Islands in St. Thomas. Jan has served in the a Visiting Artist Program in North Carolina and taught dance in various settings, including at the North Carolina School of the Arts, UNC Greensboro and several private dance studios. She has been teaching in the public schools for over 20 years and has recently renewed her National Board Certification as a middle childhood generalist. Jan currently teaches in Winston-Salem at the Arts Based Elementary School and at the North Carolina School of the Arts in the Preparatory Dance Program. Jan was named the N.C. Teacher of the Year for Charter Schools for 2013-14. She has been an A+ Fellow since 1995.

Kathy Angier is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where she played volleyball for the Lady Vols and earned a B.S. in Physical Education. Kathy went on to obtain her dance education certification at UNC Charlotte. She has since taught and coached in western North Carolina and currently teaches P.E. and dance at Saluda Elementary and Tryon Elementary Schools and healthful living at Polk County High School. Kathy has been an A+ Fellow since 2007.



Joe Appleton is a retired kindergarten teacher and state employee. He taught in Durham Public Schools from 1994 to 2003 and 2011 to 2013. From 2003 to 2010 he was a state education program consultant for the N.C. Governor's More at Four pre-kindergarten program. Joe is currently an independent early childhood education consultant, providing training, technical assistance and other professional development to private and public preschool programs throughout N.C. He is also an artist-in-residence for the Durham Arts Council's Creative Arts in the Public Schools (CAPS) program. Joe has been an actor and singer in the Durham area since 1981, performing with the North Carolina Theatre, Triangle Opera and Manbites Dog Theater (of which he was a co-founder). He was also a co-founder of The Scrap Exchange in Durham. Joe is currently an Apprentice Fellow.

Joshua Batenhorst has been working in North Carolina in the field of theater and arts education since 2002. A teaching artist with organizations such as North Carolina Stage Company, Asheville Community Theatre and LEAF in Schools and Streets, Mr. Batenhorst (or "Capt. Josh" as he is known to his students) uses improvisation, play writing, storytelling and technical theater to teach students and teachers to communicate more clearly, think more creatively and critically, and to collaborate for success. A 2001 graduate of Southwestern University in Georgetown, Tex., Capt. Josh is currently the theater arts teacher and development specialist at ArtSpace Charter School in Swannanoa. He has been an A+ Fellow since 2007.

Michael Beadle is an A+ Fellow, poet, author and writer-in-residence living in Canton, N.C. Since 1999, he has been facilitating staff development workshops for A+ Schools throughout North Carolina. As a touring writer-in-residence, he teaches poetry writing, poetry performance, advertising and journalism workshops to students in grades 3 through 12. Since 1998, Michael has been performing original, contemporary and classical poetry for schools, civic groups and special events. He is the author of two poetry collections, a poetry CD and three local history books, including *Haywood County: Portrait of a Mountain Community*, which won the President's Award from the N.C. Society of Historians in 2010. A journalist for 15 years, Michael has published more than 1,500 articles in newspapers and magazines across North Carolina.

Susie Bland is from High Point, N.C., and has been working for Guilford County Schools for 23 years. Twenty-two of those years were spent at Parkview Elementary, one of the original A+ Schools, where she was the A+ coordinator for almost 15 years. Susie has been an A+ Fellow since 1996. She has a master's degree in elementary education and earned her National Board Certification in early childhood education. In addition, Susie has been actively involved in literacy programs, using Multiple Intelligences in the classroom and developing community involvement in schools. She loves technology, and her goal is to develop ways to use her iPad and Nook every day with her second grade students.

Beverly Botsford is a cross-cultural percussionist and educator who blends music, movement and spoken word in solo and ensemble presentations. Embracing drumming traditions of Africa, Cuba, Brazil and her native North Carolina, she celebrates more than 30 years of professional experience, performing, teaching and touring around the world. Highlights include 13 years of touring with Chuck Davis and the African American Dance Ensemble, serving on the American Dance Festival faculty and over a decade of touring all over the world with jazz vocalist Nnenna Freelon in such venues as the Kennedy Center, the Hollywood Bowl and the Umbria Jazz Festival. Beverly is on the touring artist directory of the N.C. Arts Council and became an A+ Fellow in 2012.

Joan Certa-Moore is a veteran professional educator with a strong background in arts integration and creative movement for children. Joan was an A+ Fellow in the early years of the program and returned as a Fellow in 2012. She has been instrumental in the program development of a K-8 museums magnet program and has had the opportunity to practice the Paideia Principles. She has been a teacher mentor with the N.C. Museum of Art's middle school project "The Art of Collaboration" and has been a student at the Harvard Graduate School of Education week-long institute "The Project Zero Classroom Views on Understanding." Joan believes that learning and teaching should take as many forms as there are learners and teachers.

Sarah Chew is currently a K-5 science specialist at Brooks Elementary School in Raleigh where she has also taught first grade. In her role as a specialist, Sarah models for teachers how they can be museum curators and bring learning to life in their own classrooms. She incorporates movement, music, visual art and hands-on experiences into all of her science classes to make learning accessible to all students. Sarah received her B.A. in elementary education and history from Guildford College where she also minored in music. She is currently an Apprentice Fellow.

KT Childress is originally from Knoxville, Tenn., and graduated from Austin Peay State University with a B.A. in theater and communication arts. She went on to complete a year-long study at the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre in California where she discovered her love of masks and puppets. KT has worked as an artist in residence at Pocosin Arts Center creating giant parade puppets for Fall Festival. She has also worked as a teaching artist in Durham, Bertie, Dare and Currituck counties creating visual art, masks and puppets out of recyclable materials. KT became an A+ Fellow in 2013.

Lori Cozzi has worked in education for over 25 years. She holds a B.S. in communications and a M.S. in arts education from Florida State University and holds a North Carolina teaching license in elementary education and art education. In addition, she holds National Board Certification in middle childhood education. Lori is currently the executive director of ArtSpace Charter School in Swannanoa, N.C., and has been an A+ Fellow since 1999.

Lola Davis-Jones has taught drama and dance in North Carolina public schools for more than 20 years. She is a graduate of UNC Greensboro in drama and dance. She is also certified in K-6 elementary education. Mrs. DJ, as her students call her, has been an A+ Fellow since the program's inception in 1995 promoting whole-school reform through arts integration to engage all children as lifelong learners. She has a wide range of experience professionally in directing, costuming and choreography. Her experience in collaborations with students and teachers turns her art forms into tools for learning.

Bonner Dison has a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a theater major/minor from Auburn University. She has designed and implemented summer workshops, school arts curriculum and teacher workshops and founded a children's theater school and company and managed an arts center. She has also authored theater curriculum: *Acting with Imagination* and *Fun and Easy Plays for Children*. Bonner has over 30 years' experience working with children in schools and other educational settings, including special needs and at-risk youth programs. Bonner has recently moved to Asheville with her husband and is excited to be involved with the N.C. A+ Schools Program after being an A+ Fellow in Arkansas.

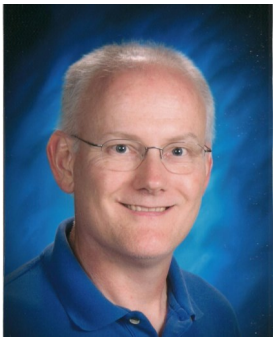
Paige Everett has been working with the A+ Schools Program as a classroom teacher and Fellow since 1995. Paige taught in the public school system for 10 years prior to her current position as a teaching instructor at East Carolina University where she teaches in the elementary and middle grades department. She is a North Carolina state certified teacher and is National Board certified. Paige has a master's degree from East Carolina University in elementary curriculum and a reading certification K-12. She has taught many courses in integrated curriculum, classroom management, instructional methods and classroom field experience. Additional experiences include curriculum coordination and developmental advising.

Carolyn Florence currently teaches second grade at Douglas Creative Arts and Science Magnet Elementary, an A+ school in Raleigh. She is a National Board Certified teacher with a master's degree in reading. No matter what grade she is teaching, Carolyn's goal is to use the arts and each individual child's talents to help every student be successful, love to learn and have fun while doing it. Carolyn's passion has become planning lessons based on the Common Core Curriculum, especially math and language arts, that help students think and show what they learn in "out of the box" ways . In her free time she is enjoys her family, singing, quilting, reading and writing. Carolyn became an A+ Fellow in 2013

Ron Forsh has been teaching in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System since 2003. Presently, he is the band director at East Forsyth Middle School. He has taught students at the elementary and secondary levels in addition serving as an On-Site Teacher Educator (OSTE) for pre-service music teachers. Ron was recognized as Band Director of the Year by the Forsyth County Band Directors Association (FCBDA) and awarded the Outstanding Educator Award by the Women's Leadership Council of the United Way in 2011-12. Ron is currently an Apprentice Fellow.

Rocio Gonzalez is originally from Colombia. Her love for music and dancing developed at a very early age. Rocio is an experienced North Carolina Wolf Trap teaching artist and also serves as a mentor and coach for new teaching artists. She trained in STEM residencies and is currently piloting STEM residencies in two Pre-K classrooms. Rocio has trained with the nationally recognized Lincoln Center Institute, the Kennedy Center Institute and continues to receive training from the Wolf Trap Center. she holds a B.S. from Gardner-Webb University and two associate degrees from Central Piedmont Community College. Rocio is currently an Apprentice Fellow.

Pattie Griffin has been an A+ Fellow since 2007. She currently works with deaf and hard of hearing students ages three through 12 at Mary McArthur Elementary School in Fayetteville, an A+ School. She has also served as a teacher in Brunswick County, N.C., and at the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. Pattie specializes in bringing researched-based curriculum to deaf students with multiple handicaps in order to meet their specific educational needs.



Dennis Hamrick grew up in western North Carolina and moved "down east" to attend East Carolina University, where he received a Bachelor of Music degree in education with a concentration in voice. He has lived and taught in Edgecombe County for more than 25 years, working with pre-kindergarteners up to eighth graders. His assignments have included not only teaching music, but also teaching a direct-instruction reading program, tutoring math and science, and spearheading a character-based whole school reform. After the school day, Dennis teaches private voice and piano lessons in his home. In the summers, he is often designing and teaching workshops for children that integrate music and other arts with writing, reading, math and social studies. Dennis taught in one of the original A+ schools and began working as an A+ Fellow in 2007.

Mimi Herman has been an A+ Fellow since 1997. She is the director of the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County's Arts Integration Institute, an associate editor for Teaching Artist Journal, a teaching artist and a consultant. The author of *The Art of Learning* (N.C. Arts Council, 1998), Mimi has published poetry, stories and articles throughout the country. She holds a B.A. cum laude from UNC-Chapel Hill and an M.F.A. in creative writing from Warren Wilson College. Mimi has worked as an arts and education consultant since 1990, engaging over 25,000 students and teachers with writing residencies, as well as providing extensive professional development for teachers and teaching artists.

Daniel C. Johnson is associate professor of music education at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. He specializes in classroom music instruction, music listening and teachers' professional development. He has taught pre-K through college students in public, private and community-based schools in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Arizona and North Carolina. Dan is a nationally certified music and movement instructor and a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, the University of Arizona and Emory University. He is also the principal tubist of the Long Bay Symphony and has performed with many other groups including the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra, the St. Louis Philharmonic Orchestra, and numerous brass quintets. Dan became an Fellow in 2013

Sheila Kerrigan performs in *The Mime Who Talks!* and *Mime Explains String Theory!* She is also the author of *The Performers' Guide to the Collaborative Process*. With the A+ Schools Program and the Southeast Center for Arts Integration she leads professional development sessions for teachers and artists on integrating the arts with core curricula. She uses drama to teach communication, creativity, conflict resolution and collaboration. She works with at-risk youth to create performances about issues important to them. With TOUCH Mime Theater for 17 years, and as a solo mime, she has conducted residencies for arts councils and universities, performed and taught in prisons, juvenile detention centers, hospitals, street festivals and on television. Sheila has been an A+ Fellow since 2001.

Marta King serves as the theater arts specialist at Powell GT Elementary School of the Visual and Performing Arts in Raleigh. She has an M.Ed. with a focus in literacy from UNC Chapel Hill and National Board Certification in literacy. Prior to teaching at Powell, Marta taught theater, dance and language arts at the middle and high school levels. For the past five years, she has worked with NC State University education majors on effectively using theater in the classroom. Additionally, Marta has taught acting at the N.C. School of the Arts, Interlochen Center for the Arts, as well as other venues. As an actor and director, she has worked for many years with theater companies she co-founded in Charlotte, Durham and Raleigh, and has toured the country performing poetry and teaching poetry performance workshops to teachers and students. Marta has been an A+ Fellow since 1995.

September Kruegger is a fiber artist and printmaker from Wilmington, N.C. Her creative energy was invested for many years in a wearable art studio producing a line of women's silkscreened clothing. In 2007, she entered the M.F.A. program at East Carolina University to pursue a teaching career. September has provided fiber residencies in elementary and middle schools with a focus on culture and history, as well as public workshops in batik and silk painting. She is currently the art instructor for Southeastern Community College in Whiteville, N.C., and has served as an A+ Fellow since 2012.

Jef Lamdin resides in Lumberton, N.C., and performs mime, variety arts and mask theater as The InterACTive Theater of Jef. He also teaches mime, mask, commedia, physical dynamics, variety arts, ensemble techniques and composition through educational residencies and performs with Tom Pierce in the duet Tom & Jef: New Mime Theater. From 1976 to 1993 Jef was a member of TOUCH, North Carolina's touring mime theater ensemble. From 1995 through 1999, Jef was the managing director for the Jelly Educational Theater in Chapel Hill. From 1993 through 1997, Jef created the role of and performed as the mascot for the Durham Bulls Baseball Club, Wool E. Bull. Jef has been an A+ Fellow since 2005.

Steve Lipe is the instructional technology coordinator and faculty board representative at ArtSpace Charter School in Swannanoa, N.C. He has been a teacher at ArtSpace since the school opened in 2001. He holds a B.S. in recreational resources administration from NC State University, an M.A. in communication studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and an M.L.S. media specialist degree from Appalachian State University. Steve completed his teaching certification at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. With more than 20 years of experience, he holds North Carolina professional licensure in K-6 general education, K-12 computer science and media library science. Steve has been an A+ Fellow since 2012.

Christina Lohry holds a master's degree in both dance therapy and education and is a certified Brain Gym instructor/consultant. She has a certificate in arts integrated education and presently teaches dance at Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts, an A+ school in Monroe, N.C. Christina co-founded The Shambhala School, an arts integrated school and teacher training program in Canada. For more than 20 years she has been teaching students, teachers and parents avenues for health and well-being that include yoga, arts integration, Tai Chi, Brain Gym educational kinesiology and sensory integration. Christina has been an A+ Fellow since 2012.

Carrie Long has been an A+ fellow since 2003. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and holds a K-12 certification in music education. Carrie is a National Board Certified music teacher with 15 years experience and holds Orff certification levels 1 and 2. She has been a guest speaker at several universities and enjoys sharing with teachers the value of incorporating music within their classroom on a daily basis. She strives to bring fun, engaging lessons to A+ workshop participants that aid their students in developing critical thinking skills and 21st century learning.

Glenda Mackie was awarded a scholarship to Tisch School of the Arts, NYU where she received her B.F.A in dance. She then returned to her hometown of Raleigh where she served as dance director at Arts Together, Inc. for almost 20 years and joyfully directed The Rainbow Dance Company from 1990 to 2004. She was a founding member of the collaborative Even Exchange Dance Theater and also performed with the improvisational quartet THEM. Her love of movement has allowed her to dance with many inspiring people and fueled extensive study in contact improvisation, Body Mind Centering, Feldenkrais technique, Alexander technique, Tai Chi and yoga. She is currently a dance educator at Enloe High School in Raleigh. Glenda is currently an Apprentice Fellow.

Lucinda McDermott Piro's multi-arts background includes founding, directing and instructing for ArtsXtreme Multi-Arts Workshop which served children in grades 2 through 12 in the New River Valley of Virginia from 2006 to 2009. She has a B.F.A. in acting and an M.F.A. in playwriting. Lucinda is an actor, playwright, director, theater arts teacher, musician, songwriter and craftsperson. She is a member of the acoustic duo Ball & Chain with her husband, singer/songwriter Jon Piro. She has also toured her one-woman play *O'Keeffe!* throughout the USA and in Bermuda. Lucinda specializes in community integrated projects and devised theater. She has been an A+ Fellow since 2013.

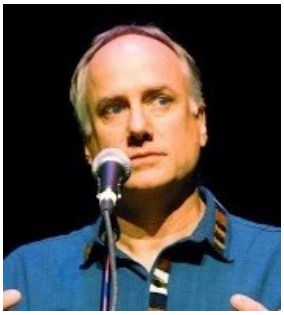
Karen Miazga is from Kansas City Missouri, where she graduated cum laude from the University of Missouri-Kansas City with a Bachelor of Arts in art education K-12. In 2009 Karen moved to Raleigh where she is currently a STEM teacher at Bugg Elementary, an A+ School. She recently completed her master's in school administration and has been an A+ Fellow since 2013.

Lisa Milliken teaches in the academically gifted program at Douglas Creative Arts and Science Elementary, an A+ school in Raleigh. Lisa is a National Board Certified teacher who has masters' degrees in elementary education and educational leadership. Lisa became an A+ fellow in 1996 while working at Bugg Creative Arts and Science Elementary, one of the original A+ schools in North Carolina. Recently, she was selected as a teacher scholar to participate in the National Endoment for the Humanities Summer Institute *Power of Place* where she worked with a group of educators from around the country to write lesson plans for the Endowment's EdSITEment website. Lisa is currently working with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction on a task force to design measures of student learning for non-tested grades and subjects.

Dawn Moretz has been teaching in a variety of educational and performing arts settings for more than 20 years in North and South Carolina. Five years ago Dawn combined her passion for curriculum and the performing arts by joining the staff of Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts, an A+ School in Monroe, N.C., as the drama teacher. Beyond the classroom, Dawn can be found advocating on behalf of public education as a local leader with the North Carolina Association of Educators, working as a band booster at her son's high school, and volunteering at church. Dawn has been an A+ Fellow since 2012.

Michelle Morris has been a visual arts teacher for 20 years in North Carolina schools, teaching at the elementary, middle and high school level. She is currently teaching at Union Pines High School in Moore County. Michelle has a B.F.A. in art education with K-12 certification from UNC Greensboro and an M.A. in art education from UNC Pembroke. She was the art teacher at Parkview Elementary in High Point when the school became one of the first A+ schools in 1995. Michelle has been an A+ Fellow since 2000.

Tom Nevels is a theater educator based in Durham where he is currently technical director at Durham School of the Arts. He has worked previously as theater arts director for both Snipes Academy of Arts and Design in Wilmington and Graham High School in Graham, N.C. Tom holds an M.A. in theater education from Emerson College and a B.F.A. in theater education from UNC Greensboro, and he is a North Carolina Teaching Fellows alumnus. For more than a decade, Tom has worked nearly every summer for the UNC Greensboro All-Arts, Science & Technology Camp. In addition, he has taught as artist-in-residence providing workshops to teachers and students throughout the country. Tom joined the A+ Schools Program as a Fellow in 2012.



David Novak lives in Asheville where he is a teaching artist for the Asheville City Schools' TAPAS initiative. A National Storytelling Network Circle of Excellence storyteller, David is a featured teller at the National Storytelling Festival and festivals across the country and abroad, from Hong Kong to the Czech Republic. He was Master Storyteller on the opening team for the Disney Institute at Walt Disney World and touring artist for the L.A. Music Center and Lincoln Center Institute. David is also an adjunct instructor in the graduate storytelling program at East Tennessee State University and performance review editor for the journal Storytelling, Self, and Society. David is currently an Apprentice Fellow.

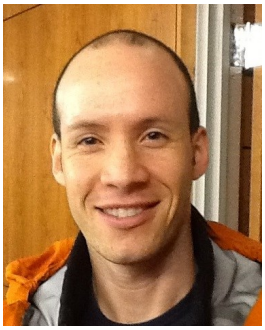
Rebecca Nussbaum, a flutist by training, is also an arts administrator and educator. In 2004, Rebecca was able to bring her love of performance and education together through researching, designing and developing the Open Dream Ensemble for which she is the general manager. In addition to her work with Open Dream and the A+ Schools Program, Rebecca is a teaching artist, chamber music coach and flute teacher. She has been a member of the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, the Opera Festival of New Jersey and the Amarillo Symphony. Rebecca has performed solo and chamber music recitals in a variety of venues including the Japanese Embassy, the Arts Club of D.C. and the Banff Centre for the Arts. Rebecca has been an A+ Fellow since 2007.

Diane Petteway is currently the choral music teacher at Daniels Middle School in Raleigh. She began her work with the A+ Schools Program in 1998 as a music teacher at Bugg Elementary and became an A+ Fellow in 1999. Diane is also a trainer and school evaluator for the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme and teaches music curriculum workshops internationally for the IB. She has also worked as adjunct staff at the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT) on both Cullowhee and Ocracoke campuses. Diane specializes in arts integration (from the perspectives of both arts and core teacher), cultural relevancy, deepening inquiry, global connections and student engagement.

Sara Ridings has 22 years' experience teaching in North Carolina public schools, specializing in using creative movement and dance to teach all subject matters. Sara's background includes a B.S. in dance education and psychology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and an M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction, integrated teaching through the arts from Lesley University. She has licensure in dance K-12, elementary preK-6 and National Board Certification as a middle childhood generalist. Sara has been an A+ Fellow since 2003.

Crystal Scillitani has worked in the field of education since 1997 serving as an elementary school teacher and school leader. Her work as a school administrator began at Green Hope High School in Cary, N.C. She has served as a principal in both Wake and Orange County Schools with a focus on magnet and Title I programs. In addition to her service in public schools, Scillitani worked at NC State University as part of the team that designed and launched the Department of Elementary Education. Currently, she is leading the opening of Cardinal Charter Academy, a K-8 public charter school located in Cary. Crystal is currently an Apprentice Fellow.

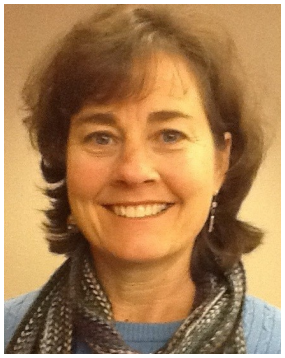
Peter Shanahan joined the A+ Schools Program as a Fellow in 2012. As a member of the Open Dream Ensemble, he has conducted teaching artist residencies for students and can be seen in *The Adventures of the Open Dream Ensemble*, the first educational web series for kids. As a professional flutist, Peter performs with symphony orchestras in Charleston, Winston-Salem, Western Piedmont, Salisbury, Greensboro and Southwest Florida. He is the flute instructor at Guilford College and the Music Academy of North Carolina. Peter received a Master of Music from Indiana University and Bachelor of Music from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.



Marlon Torres is the managing director of North Carolina Arts in Action, an organization that helps children reach their full potential using dance as a catalyst to build discipline, leadership, self-esteem and teamwork. Marlon is a certified project management professional (PMP) through the Project Management Institute, has an M.B.A. in marketing from the University of Leicester in the U.K. and holds a B.A. in theatre and dance from Binghamton University. His professional dance background and experience in team development, arts education and management make Marlon an integral part of the A+ Schools Program. Marlon is currently an Apprentice Fellow.

Jan Tremon has been an A+ Fellow since 2004. She received her B.S. in dance and certification in drama from East Carolina University and an M.A. in dance and arts integration from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn. Jan also studied multiple intelligences at Harvard University through Project Zero under the direction of Howard Gardner. Jan was a dance educational specialist at Sunset Park Elementary, the first A+ pilot school in N.C. While at Sunset Park, Jan received her K-6 elementary education certification at UNC Wilmington in order to integrate her art forms of dance and drama into the state curriculum for the A+ classroom.

Melinda Waegerle is an assistant professor at UNC Greensboro. Her work focuses on dance education and integration across the curriculum. Melinda earned her B.S. and M.A. in dance education at UNC Greensboro and has facilitated professional development of educators in North Carolina, Oklahoma, Arkansas, North Dakota, South Dakota and Michigan. She is interested in developing enriched assessment practices and working with K-12 educators. Melinda is an original A+ Fellow.



Carrie Wagner is a photographer, author and global teaching artist. She uses her 20 years of international experience to inspire and engage audiences in authentic cultural discovery and experiential service learning. A N.C. native, Carrie has worked in N.C. schools as a teaching artist and teacher trainer for 10 years. She has lived in Uganda, South Africa, Peru and Ecuador, and has traveled in over 25 countries. Sharing visual stories from her book *Village Wisdom* and two photography exhibitions, *Portraits of Uganda* and *Andean Faces, Sacred Spaces*, Carrie teaches visual literacy, 21st century skills and cultural competency. Carrie is a certified Cultural Intelligence Facilitator, an outreach specialist for UNC World View and a global speaker for Melibee Global Consulting. She has a B.S. in environmental and visual design from NC State University. Carrie is currently an Apprentice Fellow.

Emily Wike holds a theater education degree from UNC Greensboro. After graduating, she taught theater at Davenport Elementary, an A+ School, for six years and became an A+ Fellow in 2003. Currently, Emily is teaching at Sandy Ridge Visual and Performing Arts Magnet School in Durham, N.C.

Susan Zelasky has been a music teacher for 17 years , nine of those at Douglas Elementary Creative Arts and Magnet School, an A+ school in Raleigh. She is nationally board certified in early and middle music education. Susan is a two-time presenter at the Magnet Schools of America Conference and also presented at the statewide A+ Conference in Greensboro prior to becoming an A+ Fellow in 2012.