

# 2019 Summer Highlights:



Social Studies enthusiast, Jodi Denton, M.Ed., serves as one of lead4ward's content specialists. Jodi works with teachers and instructional support teams to meet the increasingly complex requirements for student success. She recognizes the challenges and sense of urgency regarding Social Studies and uses her diverse knowledge, high energy, and fresh approach to support teachers in developing and implementing innovative instructional and assessment practices.

Prior to joining the lead4ward team, Jodi served as a Social Studies Specialist at Education Service Center Region 13, a Teaching American History Grant Manager in South Carolina, and a secondary classroom teacher. Additionally, she has been published in *The Teacher Educator*, has authored online courses for Educational Options, Inc. and Education Service Center Region 13, and has presented as the keynote speaker for the Texas Social Studies Supervisors Association (TSSSA) conference.

**Featured Sessions:** Lead4Ward: Full Streamlining Ahead with Social Studies TEKS (Grades 6-EOC) – May 28<sup>th</sup>



Cyndi Nyvall is a literary enthusiast dedicated to educating teachers across the state with how to build passionate readers and writers. Her mission is based on student engagement and authentic use of the disciplines of reading and writing in the classroom. Her approach is innovative, straight forward, and practical while challenging each educator in the room to push themselves to offer their best to their students each day. Her belief is that the work of teachers is the most important and impactful job in our society, and she works to inspire and uplift these everyday heroes.

Cyndi joins the Lead4ward team from a background as an ELAR coordinator in the East Texas area and as an Academic Coach in the DFW area. She has presented at various conferences across the state including TAGT, ESC summer conferences, Lead4ward's THINK conference, as well as, in districts across the state. Her home is in Longview, Texas where she resides with her husband and two sons.

**Featured Sessions:** Lead4Ward: Wave Goodbye, Say Hello: New ELAR TEKS (Grades K-8) – May 28<sup>th</sup>

Nancy Crouch is an experienced educational consultant who works with state agencies, education service centers, and school districts in developing and implementing teaching and learning systems. As a consultant, she has supported both large and small school districts in the development, training, and implementation of curriculum processes.



Prior to joining lead4ward, Nancy served as a curriculum writer, leadership team member, and regional project director for the Texas Education Service Center Curriculum Collaborative (TESCCC). As a Project Director for the Education Service Center Region 19, Nancy supported school districts across the state in the adoption and implementation of a statewide curriculum and served as an active member of the TESCCC management team. As a lead curriculum writer, she analyzed state standards and developed and implemented processes to effectively align the written, tested, and taught curriculum. Prior to working with TESCCC, Nancy specialized in the areas of K-12 mathematics and science as an instructional coach, instructional facilitator, and classroom teacher.

**Featured Sessions:** Lead4Ward: Problem Solving in the Math Classroom – June 4<sup>th</sup>



Because of her knowledge of ELLs and her engaging and enthusiastic presentation style, Dr. Michelle Yzquierdo has become a very popular and sought-after trainer and presenter, receiving accolades from individuals from all facets of education. She has presented at the local and state level on a variety of topics including best practices for ELLs, implementation of effective new arrival centers, factors contributing to the success of high school immigrants as well as numerous trainings addressing state and federal accountability and compliance concerns.

Dr. Yzquierdo holds an undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University, a Master's Degree from the University of Houston, and most recently completed a Doctorate Degree from Lamar University in 2013. Her doctoral research focused on the factors contributing to the success of high school immigrant students and she continues researching and presenting on this important topic.

**Featured Sessions:** Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners – June 17<sup>th</sup>  
7 Steps to a Language Rich Classroom – June 18<sup>th</sup>

Dana Lamb became associated with Flippen Group processes when she began teaching *Teen Leadership* in 2001. She joined Flippen Group in 2006, providing training for educators throughout the United States. Dana became a leadership development executive in 2013 and is responsible for leading her team and instrumental in product development.



Dana Lamb grew up in Baytown, Texas and graduated from Sam Houston State University with a bachelor's degree in English. She began her career in education as a teacher at Pasadena High School and later moved to Ross S. Sterling High School. Dana taught at the high school level for seventeen years. She was Sterling's Teacher of the Year in 2004 and received the Teaching Excellence Award in 2005. She truly believes in the statement, "Youth may be only 20 percent of the population, but they are 100 percent of the future." Dana hopes to help others impact the future.

**Featured Sessions:** Capturing Kids Hearts – June 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>

Tricia McKale Skyles began her career in education as a middle school teacher in Delphos, Kansas. After several years in the classroom, she began working as an instructional coach with Pathways to Success, a GEAR UP project that partnered the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning and Topeka Public Schools. She consults with many schools in all areas of behavior management, school-wide interventions, and best instructional practices. Tricia co-authored *Coaching Classroom Management: A Toolkit for Administrators and Coaches* with Randy Sprick, Jim Knight, and Wendy Reinke.



In her role as a *Safe & Civil Schools* consultant, Tricia has provided training in:

- CHAMPS: A Proactive and Positive Approach to Classroom Management
- Coaching Classroom Management for Coaches
- Coaching Classroom Management for Administrators
- Foundations: Establishing Positive Discipline Policies
- ParaPro: Supporting the Instructional Process

**Featured Session:** CHAMPS: A Proactive Approach to Classroom Management – July 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Tough Kids – July 23<sup>rd</sup>