

CRAIN'S

DETROIT BUSINESS

September 23, 2019 | crainsdetroit.com

CRAIN



CRAIN'S 2019
**NOTABLE
WOMEN IN
EDUCATION
LEADERSHIP**

BETH BAKER

Co-CEO and Co-Founder, WAY Program, Centric Learning System and WAY American School, Belleville

Most recent degree earned: Master of Science in Alternative Education in Nontraditional Settings, Wayne State University



Beth Baker taps into the knowledge of great teachers by using proven, evidence-based best practices and data to advance learning for children.

Before co-creating Centric Learning Systems, Baker established Widening Advancements for Youth, a nonprofit that manages public school academies for local school districts. She also provided leadership and technical assistance for 34 school districts and 350,000 students as a consultant for the Wayne County Regional Education Service Agency (RESA).

"I have known Beth in her role with Wayne RESA ... and in her role of creating a private education organization that now spans three continents. Her passion for doing right by children and helping to create pathways to success have remained the common denominator in all she does," said Tom Watkins, former Michigan state superintendent of schools.

When developing WAY and Centric Learning, she and her partners researched ways they might narrow the education gap. They came up with a project-based multidisciplinary learning curriculum and system based on inquiry or research into solving problems, understanding issues and exploring new topics. Through WAY and Centric Learning Systems, HERO students learn while developing 21-century skills along the way.