



National Recognition Program 2021 Certifying Body

Name	Organization	Title	Role
Molly McCloskey	Strategic Questions Consulting Member of NELN and Consultant	Executive Director Education Consultant	Chair
Lindsey Atkinson	National Federation of State High School Associations	Director of Sports & Communications Associate	Member
Gary Baker	Rowan University	Assistant Director, Greek Affairs	Member
Jennifer Cartland	JBSC Consulting	Executive Director	Member
Deirdra Hawkes	American School Counselor Association	Director of Programs and Advocacy	Member
Pam Hoke	Sycamore Creek Elementary	Special Education Teacher	Member
Jeff Sherrill	National Student Council Member of NELN	Associate Director	Member
Ericka Uskali	Urbana School District 116	Director of Curriculum and Student Learning	Member
Kaleigh Vogan	Classroom and Lesson Master	Education Advisor	Member
Jeff Wooten	Kellis High School	Principal	Member



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Member Information

Molly McCloskey, Chair

Executive Director

Strategic Questions Consulting, LLC

Molly McCloskey, founder and executive director of Strategic Questions Consulting, has worked in every level of education from early childhood through graduate school. Prior to founding her own company, she served as CEO of Operation Respect, a non-profit which led anti-bullying efforts in the United States, Palestine, Japan, Ukraine, and Israel. Earlier, while co-chair of Governor Martin O'Malley's Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland and Director of No Kid Hungry, Maryland, Molly increased access to federally funded meals for children in all 26 counties through a public-private partnership of state agencies and non-profit organizations. During her tenure as Managing Director, Whole Child Programs at ASCD, Molly co-developed and directed the education reform effort to ensure each child in each school in each community is healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged.



Ms. McCloskey has presented across the United States, Canada, Germany, and Israel. She has written and been interviewed about hunger, poverty, school reform, and whole child education in the Baltimore Sun, Miami Herald, USA Today, Edutopia and the Chicago Tribune. Her specialties include anti-bias and equity efforts in schools and other organizations, school/organizational climate and culture, cultural competence, social and emotional learning, a whole child approach to education, and evidence-based planning for sustainable change.

Strategic Questions Consulting, LLC

Strategic Questions Consulting provides custom consulting services for leaders and organizations. From inspiring keynote presentations to "in the trenches" leadership coaching to ongoing facilitation of school and organization improvement processes, our work is interactive and engaging, rooted in adult learning research and specific to your context. With expertise including anti-bias and equity efforts, school/organizational climate and culture, social and emotional learning, a whole child approach to education, and leading sustainable change, Strategic Questions Consulting provides support which enhances our clients' strengths, builds consensus around their needs, and leads them to answers for their specific context.





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Lindsey Atkinson, Member

Director of Sports | Communications Associate
National Federation of State High School Associations

Lindsey Atkinson joined the NFHS staff in 2016 as a coordinator of sports, assisting with the sports of girls gymnastics, track and field, cross country and volleyball with additional responsibilities in the areas of inclusion of students with disabilities and staff liaison for tennis.

In August of 2017, Atkinson was named to the administrative staff in her current position as director of sports and communications associate. Among her duties, Atkinson serves as the staff liaison, rules interpreter and editor of rules publications in the sports of girls lacrosse and volleyball, and she is a staff writer for High School Today. She also maintains her role as staff liaison for tennis and inclusion of students with disabilities.

Atkinson spent five years as a health teacher at South Putnam High School in Greencastle, Indiana, where she was the varsity girls basketball coach, varsity volleyball coach and assistant varsity softball coach.

Prior to rejoining the NFHS staff, Atkinson spent three years as an academic advisor for both Kaplan University (now Purdue University Global) and Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) while earning her master's degree in higher education leadership.

A DePauw University graduate, Atkinson competed on the women's basketball team for four years and the softball team for one year. She earned her bachelor's degree in kinesiology before starting her professional career with the NFHS.

Atkinson resides in Brownsburg, Indiana, with her wife, Kate, and daughter, Zoe.

National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

The NFHS is the national leader and advocate for high school athletics as well as fine arts and performing arts programs. Within our 51 member state associations (including Washington, D.C.), we serve 19,500 high schools and more than 12 million young people. The NFHS writes playing rules for high school sports and provides guidance on a multitude of national issues. We offer online education courses for high school coaches, officials, students, parents, and speech and music leaders through the NFHS Learning Center. We showcase high school sports and performing arts on the Internet through the NFHS Network. Ultimately, our goal is to ensure that all students have an opportunity to enjoy healthy participation, achievement and good sportsmanship in education-based activities.





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Gary Baker, Member

Assistant Director, Greek Affairs
Division of Student Affairs
Rowan University

Gary Baker works at Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ primarily overseeing Fraternity & Sorority Life on campus. Since 2011, he has worked in various capacities at Rowan, including Campus Recreation, Orientation, Student Government, Leadership Programs, and part-time with Athletics and as an adjunct faculty member. He began volunteering with Special Olympics in 2009, and has been involved with Unified Sports since 2012.



Rowan University

Rowan University established its Special Olympics Unified Sports program in January 2012 as a partnership with Special Olympics New Jersey. Started first as a program through the Rec Center, it has evolved into an award-winning student organization that has involved hundreds of Special Olympics athletes and more than 1000 students since its inception. Rowan Unified Sports was the first college to be recognized as a National Banner school in New Jersey, and has served as a model of inclusion for other universities across the state and nation.





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Jennifer Cartland, Ed D., Member

Executive Director
JBSC Consulting

Dr. Jennifer Cartland is a career educator who focuses on leadership through service. Jennifer's career has focused on promoting the welfare of others, through work in schools, school districts and non-profit organizations. Most recently, Jennifer was responsible for management, and oversight of the Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy. In this role, Jennifer oversaw all aspects of the program including adult learning, coaching and team development. Cartland managed four directors who delivered against a collaboratively developed strategic plan, providing a safe and effective set of experiences for youngsters during their 4-year tenure at the Academy. In 2020, Cartland orchestrated plans that resulted in intervention and support for families in Ward 7 and 8 during the health crisis. Between March and September, over 20,000 meals were served to local families and children and 5,000 bags of discounted fresh produce were distributed to community members.



Cartland was also responsible for shepherding the work of the board of directors (vetting and presenting new members) cultivating relationships with donors, fundraising and representing the organization in various media outlets.

Formerly, Dr. Cartland has held positions as Managing Director of Program, Head of Schools and Senior Director of Program Growth at K-12 education and family engagement-oriented organizations. She has also headed key offices in DCPS and RIDE (Rhode Island State Department of Education), supporting the development of education leaders and overseeing the performance of public and public charter schools. She has trained teachers, school and district leaders to understand the critical need for clear accountability structures, rigorous instruction, quality content standards, aligned assignments and assessments.

Dr. Cartland was a Mentor Principal and Leadership Coach, Principal, and an elementary and middle school Assistant Principal and classroom teacher. She has also consulted, facilitated and taught as adjunct professor. She was a member of the Aspen Institute's "Commission on No Child Left Behind" - convened to gather information and make recommendations for potential reauthorization of the law.

Dr. Cartland is actively involved with several local causes. She was a founding member of the governing Board of the Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital and is now Vice President. Dr. Cartland also serves on the board of FRESHFARM, an organization committed to encouraging family nutrition, planning and health through outreach and public education about food access, equity and related environmental issues.

Dr. Cartland earned her Doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Pennsylvania, her Master's degree in education administration from The George Washington University and Bachelor's degree from The Catholic University of America in Elementary Education.



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Deirdra Hawkes, Member

Director of Programs and Advocacy
American School Counselor Association

Prior to joining the ASCA staff this year as Director of Programs and Advocacy, Deirdra worked in education as a Dean of Counseling and Student Services in North Carolina for over 20 years. She has maintained comprehensive school counseling programs and earned national recognition for them. Deirdra says what's most important is that students get access to the learning strategies, self-management skills and social skills needed for their academic, career and social/emotional needs and they can utilize these skills well beyond high school. She worked closely with staff in special programs, spending additional time supporting students with special needs. Her personal interests include exercise, music and mentoring.



American School Counselor Association

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is a nonprofit professional organization based in Alexandria, Va. ASCA promotes student success by expanding the image and influence of school counseling through leadership, advocacy, collaboration and systemic change. ASCA helps school counselors guide students toward academic achievement, career planning and social/emotional development to help them become tomorrow's productive, contributing members of society. ASCA provides professional development, publications, resources, research and advocacy to professional school counselors around the globe. ASCA administers the Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP), the School Counselor of the Year awards and publishes the ASCA National Model.





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Pam Hoke, Member

Special Education Teacher
Sycamore Creek Elementary School

Pamela Hoke is in her 19th year as a Special Education Teacher. She has taught a K-2 Autism Classroom, Pre-K Autism Classroom for 5 years and has been teaching a self-contained 3-5 Extend Content Standards Classroom for the last 14 years. She obtained a BS and BA from Meredith College in Child Development, Social Work and a minor in Psychology. In 2016, she received an Employee Excellence Award from Wake County Public School System and in 2017 was Sycamore Creek Elementary Schools Teacher of the Year. In 2017, she also was the recipient of WRAL's Teacher of the Week Award. In 2015, she started Crocs Unified at Sycamore Creek Elementary and became a Unified Champion School club. In 2018, Crocs Unified received the National Unified Champion School Banner and was the first Elementary School to receive this award in Wake County Public School System - the largest public school system in North Carolina. Pam enjoys watching the friendships form and continue after their time at Sycamore Creek Elementary. She is married and has a 15 year old daughter, 14 year old son, a 29 year old step-son and 28 year old step daughter. Pam has a 47 year old brother on the Autism Spectrum and he is her "why" inclusion and acceptance of individuals with Intellectual Differences is so important for our youth to understand at a young age. Teaching inclusion to youth is so important because it teaches compassion and sympathy, in addition to the acceptance of differences. This increases community acceptance and increased post secondary options by diminishing the stigma that individuals with disabilities can't perform just as well as those without disabilities.



Sycamore Creek Elementary School

A Special Olympics National Banner School as of 2018.





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Jeff Sherrill, Member

Associate Director
National Association of Student Councils

Jeff Sherrill is Associate Director of National Student Council (NatStuCo) at NASSP. He joined the association in spring of 1996. As Associate Director, Jeff is responsible for providing support for member advisers and student leaders through the programs and services that NatStuCo offers. He was instrumental in the development of the Raising Student Voice & Participation program for middle level and high schools.



In addition to his work at NASSP, Jeff serves on several national committees including the Civic Mission of Schools and the National Education Leadership Network (NELN) for SONA-UCS. In 2011, he was tapped to serve on a sub-committee working on the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

A graduate of Appalachian State University with a degree in middle level education, Jeff taught at Newton-Conover Middle School in Newton, North Carolina prior to joining NASSP. He holds certificates in experiential education and universal access training from NC Outward Bound, Alpine Towers, and Challenge Masters Inc. and volunteered for nearly 20 years on the rescue squad before moving to Virginia. Jeff has been recognized for his work at NASSP by the Pennsylvania Association of Secondary School Principals and in 2018 he received the Francis Bounds Excellence in Leadership Award from the North Carolina Association of Student Councils.

Outside of work, you will find Jeff on a river or in the woods enjoying his passions for kayaking and photography.

National Student Council

Since 1931, the goal of National Student Council (NatStuCo) has been to help all student councils become more effective organizations. NatStuCo represents middle level and high school councils nationwide and abroad. Focusing on its four tenets of Leadership, Service, Voice and Engagement, NatStuCo features resources and programming that support and encourage school efforts to create opportunities for students to develop and apply essential leadership and civic-based skills. NatStuCo is a program of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and is located at the NASSP national office in Reston, VA





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Ericka Uskali, Member

Director of Curriculum and Student Learning
Urbana School District 116

Ericka Uskali is the Director of Curriculum and Student Learning for Urbana School District 116, which is a large urban district in Illinois. Prior to this role, she served as the Executive Director for the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. She began her career as a middle-school teacher, and has since been the Assistant Director for the Association of Illinois Middle-Grades Schools, served as a comprehensive school and district reform instructional coach, educational consultant and professional development specialist, and school district administrator overseeing a School Improvement Grant. Ericka has both a Masters and Specialist degree in Educational Leadership.





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Kaleigh Vogan, Member

Consultant
Education Advisor and Unified Classroom Content Creator

Kaleigh Vogan joins us as an Education Advisor from Panama City Beach, Florida. She originates from Western New York where she pursued a Bachelor's and Master's degree in General Education, Special Education, and Literacy Education.

Kaleigh developed a passion for working with and advocating for middle school students as a 6th grade Exceptional Children (EC) inclusion teacher in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. For 6 years, Kaleigh taught intensive reading classes, co-taught content classes, and led social skills groups for students with and without disabilities. She acted as the head of the EC Department, overseeing caseloads, support specialists, and assistants. She also represented and advocated for the department on the school leadership committee, equity team, and MTSS committee. Kaleigh was acknowledged as a teacher of excellence from the district Special Needs Advisory Committee for 3 years, was named Teacher of the Year in 2018, and was awarded the North Carolina Educator of Excellence in 2018.

Most recently, Kaleigh taught 8th grade English Language Arts (ELA) and intensive reading in Panama City Beach. During this time, she served as an ESOL liaison and ELA liaison where she assisted with district curriculum development. She also served on the school's leadership committee.

In September, 2020, Kaleigh left the classroom to pursue additional educational passions. She created her own consulting agency, **Classroom And Lesson Master, LLC**, and joined Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools as an education advisor and content creator for Unified Classroom. She works with the team to develop monthly, turn-key lessons and video resources that connect SEL needs with academic standards.





Jeff Wooten, Member

Principal

Raymond S. Kellis High School

Jeff Wooten is currently in his 9th year as the principal of Raymond S. Kellis High School in Glendale, Arizona. He grew up in central Iowa and attended Central College in Pella. He has been in education for 29 years, beginning his career as a math/computer programming teacher and coach in Yuma, AZ. He also taught and coached at North Canyon High School. He has been an administrator for 16 years at Shadow Mountain, Ironwood and RSK. He and his wife Lara have been married for 29 years and have 2 children, Paige and Blake.



Raymond S. Kellis High School



Raymond S. Kellis High School is located in Glendale, Arizona. It is a comprehensive high school with 1900 students. The demographics of the campus is very diverse as a Title 1 school with 52% free and reduced lunch, 58% Hispanic,

36% White, and 6% African American, Native American, and Asian. Many students on the campus have IEPs with 70 students part of our ABL program for students with intellectual disabilities. It is a very inclusive campus in many ways with a focus on building student-student, student-staff, and staff-staff relationships. The Unified programming consists of classes for Unified sports, Unified dance, Unified choir and Unified band. Kellis works closely with Special Olympics Arizona to provide opportunities for our athletes and partners.

