

MARY WEGNER, Ed.D.

Advocate for Creativity & Thinking

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Second Life: Cleo Korda



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth: August 17, 1962

Place of Birth: Minneapolis, MN

Gender: Female

PROFILE

I seek to transform the learning and teaching environment to be relevant for today's students and currently contribute to this goal as the superintendent for the Sitka School District. I also work on the state and national level in the area of advocacy regarding policies and funding that promote the value of public education to society and the necessity of learning in digital-rich environments for success in life. In addition to my advocacy work, I am active in arts education organizations in Alaska, and work to end poverty and homelessness in my home community. I know that the goal of graduating students who are thoughtful critical thinkers capable of positively contributing to our global society can only be achieved if all partners have a valid voice in the educational process. My Research focus involves synchronous online learning, critical thinking, and social learning constructs.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Superintendent

Sitka School District, Sitka, Alaska

July 2014 to present

Assistant Superintendent

Sitka School District, Sitka, Alaska

July 2010 to June 2014

Supervisor Educational Technology, Elementary

Educational Technology Department

Anchorage School District, Anchorage, Alaska

February 2007 to June 2010

Grant Project Facilitator

Educational Technology Department

Anchorage School District, Anchorage, Alaska

August 2003 to February 2007

Mary Wegner

VITA 2014 [PAGE 2]

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY [CONTINUED]

Assistant Professor

School of Education and Liberal Arts
University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau, Alaska
January 2002 to August 2003

K-12 Instructional Technology Teacher/Director of Special Education

Sitka School District, Sitka, Alaska
August 1997 to December 2001

Elementary/Technology/Special Education Teacher

Gustavus School
Chatham School District, Gustavus, Alaska
August 1996 to May 1997

Low Incidence/Technology Teacher

Juneau-Douglas High School
City and Borough of Juneau School District, Juneau, Alaska
August 1992 to June 1996

Instructional Aide

Juneau-Douglas High School
City and Borough of Juneau School District, Juneau, Alaska
February 1990 to June 1992

Qualified Mental Retardation Professional/Case Manager

Seattle Specialized Group Home #1
Seattle Specialized Group Homes, Seattle, Washington
December 1987 to September 1989 and April 1986 to April 1987

Founding Administrator/Qualified Mental Retardation Professional

Kateri House
Seattle Indian Center, Seattle, Washington
April 1987 to December 1987

Resource Room Teacher

Pioneer Middle School and Steilacoom High School
Steilacoom Historical School District, Steilacoom, Washington
September 1985 to June 1986

ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Technology Plan Reviewer (January 2003 to 2009)

Review and certify district Technology Plans for the State of Alaska

Mary Wegner

VITA 2014 [PAGE 3]

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY [CONTINUED]

ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT [CONTINUED]

Part-time Instructor (January 1994 to present)

Schools of Education, University of Alaska Southeast and University of Anchorage, Alaska

COMPETITIVE GRANT AWARDS

New Visions grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts for a total of \$45,000 [2013-2018] to cultivate a systemic and sustainable arts education program in the Sitka School District.

Successful Transitions for At-Risk (STAR) grant from the State of Alaska [Title I, Part D, Subpart 2] for a total of \$340,242 [2013-2016] to partner with a community agency that will provide therapeutic and vocational training support for students at the alternative high school in the Sitka School District.

Sitka Riches grant from the Alaska Learning Network's (AKLN) Digital Sandbox for a total of \$4,000 [Spring 2012] to support the creation of student generated digital stories that articulate the human side of what makes Sitka rich. Sitka School District teachers involved in the grant developed and shared plans regarding how to do similar documentary-type of exploration into local highlights.

Turning Our School Inside Out! grant from the State of Alaska [Title IID Wave VII] for a total of \$99,944 [2010-2011] to foster student and teacher proficiency in technology literacy by integrating the use of digital tools into the curriculum in the Sitka School District.

Achievement = Teachers Engaging All Meaningfully (A-TEAM) grant from the State of Alaska [Title IID Wave VI] for a total of \$148,534 [2009-2010] for the Anchorage School District to partner with the Sitka School District in order to foster student and teacher proficiency in technology literacy through professional development and the use of classroom-based technological tools of engagement.

The Digital Citizen grant from the Alaska Association of School Boards' (AASB) Consortium for Digital Learning (CDL) project for a total of \$250,000 [2008-2009] to implement projects that use high access devices to access web-based academic resources and productivity tools that inspire deep learning and foster individual access to resources that are differentiated to meet personal learning needs.

Anchorage and Cordova Educators (ACE) grant from the State of Alaska [Title IID Wave V] for a total of \$148,023 [2007-2008] for the Anchorage School District to partner with the Cordova School District in order to foster student and teacher proficiency in technology literacy through professional development and the use of classroom-based technological tools of engagement.

Master Technology Teacher Leaders grant from the State of Alaska [Title IID Wave IV] for a total of \$382,648 [2005-2007] for the Anchorage School District to partner with the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District to develop a mentoring program that prepared teachers to integrate technology through the use of Intel® Teach to the Future's Teaching Thinking with Technology tools coupled with technology rich resources, higher order thinking skills, and curriculum integration.

Mary Wegner

VITA 2014 [PAGE 4]

COMPETITIVE GRANT AWARDS [CONTINUED]

Alaska Reform in the Classroom through Technology Integration and Collaboration (ARCTIC) 4.0 grant from the University of Alaska Southeast [2000-2001] for Sitka School District teachers and school and district administrators to participate in this statewide program designed to foster technology integration through intensive professional development including an advanced degree in the area.

ACADEMIC DEGREES

Doctoral Degree, 2015, Educational Technology Leadership
Pepperdine University, West Los Angeles, California

Dissertation: Redefining Synchronous Learning for the 21st Century: A Descriptive Case Study to Examine Multi-Channel Synchronous Online Communication and Critical Thinking

Administration Endorsement, 2002, Educational Leadership
University of Alaska Anchorage, Anchorage, Alaska

Masters Degree, 1995, Educational Technology
University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau, Alaska

Bachelor of Science Degree, 1985, Comprehensive Special Education/Elementary
Education, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

AWARDS AND HONORS

Alaska Society for Technology in Education (ASTE) President's Award, 2015
White House Summit on Technology in Education Participant, 2015
Graduated with a 3.97 Grade Point Average, 2015
Promotional Cover of the International Society for Technology in Education's (ISTE) *Learning & Leading with Technology* magazine, 2012
ISTE Making IT Happen, Award Recipient, 2010
ISTE Member Profile in *Learning & Leading with Technology*, November 2008
ASTE President's Award, 2007
Academy of Excellence, Award Recipient, 1995
Graduated with a 4.0 Grade Point Average, 1995
Graduated Cum Laude, 1985



LEADERSHIP

Alaska State Council on the Arts, Council Member: 2014 to present

A state agency that fosters the development of the arts for all Alaskans through education, partnerships, grants and services.

Mary Wegner

VITA 2014 [PAGE 5]

LEADERSHIP [CONTINUED]

Alaska Arts Education Consortium (AAEC), Southeast Representative: 2013 to 2014

An affiliation of school districts, organizations, and individuals committed to preparing and supporting educators so that they can teach the arts across the curriculum.

Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA), Arts Education Advisory Committee: 2013 to present

A state agency that fosters the development of the arts for all Alaskans through education, partnerships, grants and services.

Easter Group, Secretary: 2011 to present

A non-profit organization in Sitka that strives to end extreme poverty and empower people, resulting in a rebirth of hope.

ASTE: At Large Representative 2014 to 2015, Past-President 2012 to 2013, President 2011 to 2012, President-Elect 2010 to 2011, Advocacy Chair 2009 to 2011, and Treasurer 2002 to 2006

The premiere educational organization in the state of Alaska that promotes access to technology, connectivity to information resources, and technology integration for all Alaskan learners.

ISTE Public Policy and Advocacy Committee: 2006 to present

ISTE is the premier association for education leaders committed to empowering connected learners in a connected world; home to ISTE Standards for learning, teaching, and leading in the digital age. The Public Policy and Advocacy Committee is ISTE's think tank regarding the organization's actions on advocacy and public policy issues.

ISTE/Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) Joint Policy Advisory Committee: 2006 to 2013

A collaborative effort that sets the national policy agenda in the field of educational technology.

EdTech Action Network (ETAN), Alaska Co-Chair: 2005 to 2013

Grassroots advocacy for federal and state educational technology issues.

ISTE Affiliate Representative: 2002 to 2006

A liaison between the ASTE and ISTE organizations.

Board Chair for The Advocates Collective: 2000 to 2005

A non-profit agency created to enhance the health & safety of the Sitka community.

PRESENTATIONS

Culatta, R., Rogister, C., & Wegner, M. (June 2015). *A conversation with the White House and the United States Department of Education.* Moderated a panel at the International Society for Technology in Education Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Mary Wegner

VITA 2014 [PAGE 6]

PRESENTATIONS [CONTINUED]

White, V.H., Smith, S., Bailey, S., & Wegner, M. (February 2015). *Building a tech team & plan: The Future Ready infrastructure guide in practice*. Panelist for the United States Department of Education Office of Educational Technology, online webinar.

Wegner, M., Warden, A., MacNaughton, MK., and Weemes, J. (May 2014). *Crossing Borders: Interdisciplinary Arts Learning for the 21st Century*. Presented at the Latitude 2014: Alaska Arts Convergence Conference, Anchorage, Alaska.

Wegner, M. (February 2014). *Redefining Synchronous Learning for the 21st Century*. Presented at the Alaska Society for Technology in Education Conference, Anchorage, Alaska.

Ashton, T., & Wegner, M. (February 2014). *Art - the world neighborhood: Actualizing digital galleries*. Presented at the Alaska Society for Technology in Education Conference, Anchorage, Alaska.

Wegner, M., Anderson, S., & Corliss, C. (October 2013). K-12 Parent engagement panel: Best practices in parent engagement programs. Panelist for the Symposium on Parent Engagement, online webinar.

Wegner, M. & Ashton, T. (March 2013). *Art - the world neighborhood: Actualizing digital galleries*. Presented at the Alaska Arts Education Consortium Leadership Symposium, Juneau, Alaska.

Wegner, M. & Zamudio, K. (February 2013). *ISTE conference 101*. Presented at the Alaska Society for Technology in Education Conference, Anchorage, Alaska.

Tompkins, S. & Wegner, M. (February 2013). *User centric website communication*. Presented at the Alaska Society for Technology in Education Conference, Anchorage, Alaska.

Wegner, M. (February 2012). *Voices carry panel*. Panel participant at the Alaska Society for Technology in Education Conference, Anchorage, Alaska.

Wegner, M. (June 2010). *ABC's of advocacy: Advocate, be heard, create change*. Panel participant at the International Society for Technology in Education Conference, Denver, CO.

Silverstein, E., Wegner, M., Jones, D., & Frazee, M. (February 2010). *Curriculum technology audit 101*. Presented at the Alaska Society for Technology in Education Conference, Anchorage, Alaska.

Ashton, T. & Wegner, M. (February 2010). *Practical uses of connecting in virtual communities*. Presented at the Alaska Society for Technology in Education Conference, Anchorage, Alaska.

Wegner, M. (October 2008). *Advocacy capacity strategies*. Panel participant at the National School Boards Association's Technology + Learning Conference in Seattle.

Mary Wegner

VITA 2014 [PAGE 7]

PRESENTATIONS [CONTINUED]

- Wegner, M. (June 2008). *ABC's of advocacy: Make your voice heard!* Panel participant at the International Society for Technology in Education Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- Wegner, M. (April 2008). *Successful advocacy strategies*. Panel participant at the Washington Education Technology Policy Summit, Washington, D.C.
- Ohler, J., & Wegner, M. (February 2008). *Digital storytelling and the DOW of literacy: Ventures in digital creativity and assessment*. Presented at the Alaska Society for Technology in Education Pre-Conference, Anchorage, Alaska.
- Ohler, J., & Wegner, M. (February 2006). *Digital storytelling and the DOW of literacy: Ventures in digital creativity and assessment*. Presented at the Alaska Society for Technology in Education Pre-Conference, Anchorage, Alaska.
- Leland, K., Clements, K., & Wegner, M. (June 2004). *The four pillars of online learning*. Presented at the International Society for Technology in Education Conference, New Orleans.
- Wegner, M., & Reilly, D. (February 2004). *Collegial community and the isolated learner*. Presented at the Alaska Society for Technology in Education Conference, Anchorage, Alaska.
- Wegner, M. (August 2003). *Community of learners*. Presented at the University of Alaska Southeast's Sitka Professional Development Conference, Juneau, Alaska.
- Murphy, J., & Wegner, M. (2003). *The teacher as a mediating force between students and society*. Paper presented at the Society of Educators and Scholars, Louisville, Kentucky.
- Wegner, M. (September 1997 to April 2002). *Over 150 various classes on the topic of technology integration*. Presented at the Sitka School District's Spring Technology Institute, Classroom Integration of Technology Institute, Educational Technology Institute, Summer Technology Institutes, and Afterschool Technology Classes, Sitka, Alaska.
- Andrews, P., & Wegner, M. (April 1996). *Multi-media made easy*. Presented at the Alaska Society for Technology in Education Conference, Anchorage, Alaska.
- Wegner, M. (March 1995 to present). *Various presentations on topics related to education*. Presented to school and/or community organizations, Anchorage, Gustavus, Juneau, and Sitka, Alaska.

Mary Wegner

VITA 2014 [PAGE 8]

SPECIFIC EMPLOYMENT SKILLS

Acting as a liaison between local/district and state officials
Adapting and designing curriculum and course outcomes to meet student learning needs
Arranging, designing, and providing Assistive Technology support
Assessing and advocating for student/resident/departmental/district needs
Collaborating on all aspects of work within and between departments
Communicating information to parents, teachers, colleagues, and stakeholders, as relevant
Conducting systemic staff development opportunities
Consulting with specialists
Coordinating and facilitating interdisciplinary teams
Coordinating with service providers (e.g., Speech Language Pathologist) and other school personnel
Designing and managing implementation of training goals, objectives, and programs
Developing curriculum and writing syllabi in a variety of content areas
Drafting policies, procedures, and correspondence
Enhancing district and community awareness through presentations
Envisioning and realizing a program to support teachers learn how to transform their classroom to support meaningful learning in a digital-rich environment
Establishing vocational training activities
Evaluating functionality of on-going programs
Facilitating development of Individual Education, Transition, and Life Plans
Forging collaborative efforts within organization and with university/community agencies
Hiring, training, supervising, and evaluating staff and hiring consultants, as needed
Implementing and documenting training goals, objectives, and programs
Instructing new to the profession as well as practicing educators as they sought advanced degrees
Leading interdisciplinary teams
Maintaining compliance with established regulations
Making decisions to solve problems and manage situations that arise
Managing fiscal budget and records
Modeling and providing direct support for teachers as they envisioned and implemented technology projects designed to enhance student learning of content
Offering over 150 various classes on the topic of technology integration
Organizing data systems
Overseeing the district's cable television station that shared live and student-generated programming
Participating as a district representative during the development of three negotiated agreements
Planning and implementing individual and class learning activities
Prioritizing workloads
Providing direct support to students in the classroom, community, and vocational environments
Reporting to the school board
Serving on numerous district-wide committees, such as the Cultural Responsive Committee, Professional Development Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and Technology Committee
Spearheading the development and implementation of a strategic plan
Ushering in sustained and systemic educational technology reform efforts
Writing grants to support department/district initiatives

Mary Wegner

VITA 2014 [PAGE 9]

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Alaska Superintendents Association (ASA): 2013 to present
International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE): 2006 to present
Alaska Society for Technology in Education (ASTE): 1993 to present

INTERESTS

Aircraft Pilots and Owners Association (2001 to 2010)
Ocean Wave Quilters (1998 to 2002)
Civil Air Patrol (1990 to 1994 and 1998 to 2002)

REFERENCES

Steve Bradshaw
13-year Sitka School District former Superintendent
Superintendent, Columbia Falls School District
501 6th Avenue West, Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Voice: (406) 892-6550 #424
Email: sbradshaw@sd6.k12.mt.us

Mollie Kabler
12-year Sitka School District School Board Member
Executive Director, Coast Alaska
705 Etolin Street, Sitka, Alaska 99835
Voice: (907) 738-0900
Email: mkabler@gci.net

Rhonda Gardner
Former Assistant Superintendent, Anchorage School District
Teacher, Santa Fe Public Schools
610 Alta Vista Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Voice: (505) 467-2000
Email: rgardner@sfps.info