

Donna L. Jahnke, Ph.D.
E-mail: donna.jahnke@slu.edu

Education

Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership	St. Louis University, 2001
Master of Education	University of Missouri – St. Louis, 1990
Special Education Certification	Southeast Missouri State University, 1983
Bachelor of Science in Education	Southeast Missouri State University, 1982

Professional Experience

Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership

St. Louis University

2019-Present

Superintendent of Schools

Ladue School District

2013- 2019

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Ladue School District

Responsibilities Include: Curriculum and Instruction K-12, Building Principal Evaluation and Supervision, Intervention Programs, Professional Development, Character Education, Diversity, Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP), Federal Title Programs, Wellness, OASIS, District Calendar Development, New Teacher Orientation and Training, Opening Week Orientation, Ladue Early Childhood Center Supervision, Development of a 5th Grade Center, Educational Research, Business Partnerships, Gifted Programming, Acceleration, Supervision of the Director of Equity & Achievement and Director of Student Support and Assessment

2008–2013

Principal of Reed Elementary School

Ladue School District

1998-2008

Director of Community Services

Ladue School District

Included responsibilities as Director of the Ladue Early Childhood Center, Program Coordinator for Parents as Teachers, and supervision of all district fee-based programs such as Before and After School Care, Foreign Language Programs, Technology Classes, and Swim Club.

1996-1998

Classroom Teacher

Ladue School District

1991-1996

Special Education Teacher

Special School District of St. Louis County

Special Education Resource Teacher within the Ladue School District 1987-1991

Special Education Self-Contained Teacher within the Clayton School District 1985-1987

Special Education Resource Teacher within Maplewood Richmond Heights 1983-1985

1983-1991

Leadership Roles/Activities in Recent Years

- Serve on the hiring team for Feed My People to secure a new Executive Director
- Served on the Missouri Commissioner's Advisory Council, 2016-2019
- Chair of the St. Louis Suburban High School Athletic Association Executive Committee, 2018-19
- Lead the completion of a Stadium and Athletic Complex for Ladue Schools, 2018-2019
- Lead a successful Bond referendum securing 85.1 million dollars to rebuild our high school and improve safety and technology throughout the school system, 2016
- Lead the development of a revitalized Strategic Plan, providing strong and actionable direction for the district, and establishing strong working relationships between the Board, Administrators, Staff, and Community, 2014 & 2017
- Provided leadership and guidance to garner community and Board support to implement a high school instructional technology one-to-one program, 2014-15
- Mentor for the Principal of Marian Middle School (Nativity School) working with an at-risk population in St. Louis City, and serve on the Academic Committee, 2010-Present
- Working in conjunction with teachers, administrators, and the Board, made major revisions in the district's compensation structure, rectifying salary inconsistencies and developing a long-term viable process for establishing competitive salary levels for certified staff, 2014-15
- Developed and implemented a STEM initiative resulting in robotics instruction K-12, high school engineering courses, and the creation of a F.I.R.S.T. High School Robotics Team
- Worked with Curriculum Coordinating Teachers to transition curriculum K-12 from state grade/course level expectations to Common Core State Standards to national standards
- Served as a graduate studies' adjunct professor for Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville
- Lead the Fifth Grade Center Planning Team, creating and facilitating the development and opening of the district's first single grade center, 2011-2013
- Served on the District Strategic Planning Committee Leadership Team, and facilitated the Academic Achievement subcommittee, 2008-2012
- Lead a district committee designed to address and provide innovative solutions for identified subgroups of students who are not achieving at expected levels, 2012 – 2014)
- Developed and supported business partnerships with the Danforth Plant Science Center and Monsanto Corporation (2010- 2014)
- Lead a successful Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) review, resulting in Ladue receiving Distinction in Performance (2010)

Selected Professional Honors

- New Student Entrance at LHW High School Named: Dr. Donna Jahnke Student Plaza, 2018
- New Superintendent of Schools Award, MASA – 2015
- Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri Outstanding Administrator Award – 2014
- National Distinguished Principal Award, 2008
- Missouri Distinguished Principal Award, 2007-2008
- Leader of Gold Star School Reed Elementary, 2004-2005

Professional Organizations and Memberships

- Member of the Board of Directors of Connected Learning, 2018-2020
- Member of the Board of Directors of Marian Middle School, 2011-2017
- American Association of School Administrators – AASA
- Midwest Suburban Superintendents Association – MSSA
- Missouri Association of School Administrators - MASA
- Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development – ASCD

Personal Interests

- Mission Work, Hiking, Golfing, Book Club, Gardening, Travel, Family
- Member of the Church Council and Sunday School Teacher, St. Paul's UCC
- Support the Disciples of God Group: Adults with Disabilities, St. Paul's UCC