



2023 WestTeach Bios

Stacie Carlton

Haywood County

Carlton is a second-grade ELA teacher at Haywood Elementary School. Currently, she serves as chair of the Marla Angotti 5k race. She is a founding member of the 15th Review Club of Haywood County, and she also started a therapy dog program at her school. She has served on two West Tennessee Emmaus teams. She is a recipient of the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year Award in 2008, the Haywood Elementary Teacher of the Year in 2010 & 2014, WBBJ Teacher of the Week in 2016, and Common Core Coach for the State in 2012-13. Carlton says that participating in WestTeach will give her connections and the leadership abilities to lead as we face changes that are coming our way.



Susan Dyer

McKenzie SSD

Dyer is the CTE Director and Community Connections/Work Based Learning Coordinator with the McKenzie Special School District. She has been a teacher for the last 20 years, teaching Marketing, Introduction to Business, Economics, Personal Finance. She is one of the DECA advisors at the school and the Interact Club sponsor. She has been the CTE Director since 2020. She was teacher of the year for McKenzie High School in 2017-2018. She and her husband also own Mallard's Restaurant in Huntingdon, Tennessee. They have two children, Dalton (23) and Dani (19). She is a member of First Baptist Church McKenzie, Rotary Club, involved with the NeverQuit Foundation, serves on the advisory board for YoungLife McKenzie, and part of the advisory board to start CASA of Carroll County. Dyer says that participating in WestTeach will give her the opportunity to network with others in the field of education and business in order to gain valuable information on the best way to lead our students into the future. She says West Tennessee is growing and expanding and career opportunities have never been so promising. She hopes this will give her insight into what needs to be offered in their district and the best way to prepare and serve our students in order for them to be productive citizens upon graduation.



Mary Kate Estes

Dyersburg City

Estes is the Career Exploration teacher at Dyersburg Middle School. She serves in the TNAchieves mentor program, coaches the middle school cheer team and is on the First Baptist Church Childrens' committee in Dyersburg, TN. She has been involved in the Instructional Leadership Committee at Dyersburg Middle School for many years. She has been a recipient of the Teacher of the Year Award. Estes says that participating in WestTeach will give her the opportunity to learn about our West Tennessee community and help educate, empower, and engage her students to grow into productive, positive citizens of West Tennessee.



Dana Helton**Madison County**

Helton is a CTE teacher at Jackson Central-Merry Early College High School. She teaches preparatory classes for future teachers (TAPS 1) as well as the dual credit courses Career Exploration and College Success for many students who will attend Jackson State Community College in their junior year of high school. She has been a part of preparing 140 students who have achieved their associate degrees as they graduate from high school and other students for CTE Workforce Development paths. As well as being involved in the Teacher Leader Cohort program, she served as Learning Coach for Early College High School for three years. She is an active member at Skyline Church and has served in various nonprofit agencies and other churches as a teacher and youth leader. Helton says that participating in WestTeach will equip her with valuable tools and resources to continue preparing students to enter college or the workforce and succeed.

**Marinda Hildenbrandt****Henderson County**

Hildenbrandt is the 8th-grade math and science teacher at South Haven Elementary School. She recently completed the Manufacturing Engineering Externship Program by the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network to increase understanding of problem-based learning both within the classroom and workforce. Earlier this year she was awarded the TVA STEM grant that provided funds for a 3D printer to facilitate problem-based learning. She currently serves as a Jr. BETA sponsor, Honor Club sponsor, prom committee chair, STEM committee, school leadership team, and lead teacher. She has been recognized as Henderson County 5-8 teacher of the year. Hildenbrandt says that participating in WestTeach will equip her with the tools to become a better leader within her school and community.

**Danielle Johnson****Weakley County**

Johnson is a second-grade teacher in Sharon. She has served on the TISA Teacher Advisory Committee and the TN Department of Education Teacher Advisory Council. She was named the Ag in the Classroom Outstanding Teacher for 2020. In 2021-22, she was named Weakley County Schools Teacher of the Year. Johnson is looking forward to the networking opportunities with other educators and industry and community leaders that WestTeach will offer and plans to then share what she gains to help open doors for her students and colleagues.

**Susan McGovern****Lauderdale County**

McGovern is an English and ACT Prep teacher at Ripley High School. She received Teacher of the Year in 2021-2022. McGovern says that participating in WestTeach will help her gain a better understanding of the offerings of West Tennessee, where she lives and teaches. With this knowledge, she will be able to better prepare her students to be equipped to follow whichever path they are headed toward.



Amelia Morrison

Morrison is the Assistant Principal of Buckley-Carpenter Elementary School. She has been involved in Alpha Delta Kappa’s Iota Chapter in Brownsville, TN and in Lambuth University’s Alpha Gamma Delta’s Theta Pi Chapter in Jackson, TN. She was chosen as Teacher of the Year of Oakland Elementary in Fayette County Public Schools in 2018-2019. Morrison says that participating in WestTeach will give her the opportunity to collaborate with other leaders and teachers in West Tennessee and to bring back a wealth of knowledge to Fayette County Public Schools.

Fayette County**Brittany Reeves**

Brittany Reeves is an alumna of the University of Tennessee at Martin where she earned a B.S. in Cell and Molecular Biology – minor in Chemistry. After graduating from UT Martin, she taught Human Anatomy and Physiology Labs on campus for two years. That experience changed her vocational trajectory by rekindling her passion for education. She has now been teaching at her alma mater, Milan High School, for six years. She has taught various courses including physical science, biology (I and II), physics, dual-credit psychology, and fundamentals of education. She is also the intervention coordinator and a mentor for new teachers. In previous years, she served as the MHS cheerleading coach and BETA Club sponsor. Reeves is not only a teacher but a student herself. She earned a M. Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from UTM in 2020 and an Ed.S. in Educational Leadership from Union University in 2023. She was recently accepted into Union University’s doctoral program. Reeves says that participating in WestTeach will provide her with insight to opportunities available for her school and community. Ultimately, she wants to use her experience to empower students to become future leaders in surrounding West Tennessee communities.

Milan SSD**Sheronda Rivers**

Rivers is a 3rd-grade math and science teacher at Trenton Elementary School. She has served as a member of the principal's leadership team, on several math and science textbook selection committees, as a grade-level lead in math, as a mentor for new and interning teachers, and as a member of the PBIS planning committee for special events. In 2019, she was selected as Teacher of the Year for Trenton Elementary School and Trenton Special School District. Rivers says that participating in WestTeach will give her (1) insight into the community's needs as they pertain to education, (2) the ability to collaborate with other educators and leaders in the community to form programs/curriculum to meet those needs, and (3) the ability to build relationships with industry so that educational leaders are continuously improving and increasing their knowledge of current trends and needs of local industry.

Trenton SSD**Natalie Salmon**

Salmon is the 4th grade Social Studies teacher of Paul G. Caywood Elementary School where she has been employed since 1998 and has served on various committees and leadership roles. Salmon says that participating in WestTeach will give her an opportunity to network with fellow educators and community leaders, and learn more about the economic needs, opportunities, and resources of West Tennessee. Her goal is to help shape our young people into responsible and respectful citizens that are college, career, and/or workplace ready. WestTeach will expand her horizons allowing her to grow as an educator and better prepare her students for the future.

Lexington City

Britni Singleteary

Dyer County

Singleteary is a 5th grade teacher at Fifth Consolidated Elementary School in the Dyer County School System. Currently, she serves on the Dyer County Fair Board, Tennessee Fairest of the Fair Committee, Bogota Community Center Board, and is a member of the Parr A venue Church of Christ. She has been involved with the Dyer County STEAM Team, FOES Leadership Committee, PBIS Team, STEM Committee, School Events Committee, and the Director of Schools Advisory Committee. She has been awarded Fifth Consolidated Elementary School Teacher of the Year in 2014 and 2020 and was the Dyer County District Level Elementary Teacher of the Year in 2014.



Singleteary says that participating in WestTeach will enable her to communicate with other peers outside of her school district, help give her the leadership experience that she so deeply desires and help her to bring new knowledge to her district, school, and own students in the classroom.

Jenilyn Sipes

Hardin County

Sipes is the 6th-8th grade Career Exploration and Computer Applications teacher at Hardin County Middle School. She is involved with Hopewell Baptist Church. Sipes says that by participating in WestTeach she hopes to learn other perspectives in her field and meet new people to network with.



Haley Stafford

Gibson County

Stafford is the Business teacher at Gibson County High School. Currently, she is an active volunteer with non-profit organizations through church activities. At GCSSD, she serves as the Districts Computer Science Ambassador for Grades 9-12. At GCHS, she serves as the FBLA Adviser, Yearbook Adviser, Cheer Coach, Tennis Coach, and the GCHS Athletics Social Media Coordinator. She was recently selected to the Aspiring Assistant Principal Network and will be working towards her endorsement in Administration as a candidate from GCSSD. Stafford says that participating in WestTeach will help her grow as a person, leader, and educator. She believes that collaboration with other teachers and local leaders will have a very positive effect on the teaching environment within her school and classroom. WestTeach will help provide her with the tools and leadership skills needed to succeed in and outside of the classroom.



Holly Thompson

Henry County

Thompson is the 8th grade math teacher of Harrelson. Currently, she serves on the school improvement council of Harrelson School. She has been involved in the Harrelson Beta Club. She has been a recipient of the 2017 and 2020 5-8 Teacher of the Year. Thompson says that participating in WestTeach will help her gain a better understanding of how-to best aid students as they navigate their educational plans moving forward to attaining their future academic and career goals.



Kelly Vonner**Humboldt SSD**

Vonner is the Algebra I, II, and Precalculus teacher at Humboldt Junior High School. Currently, she serves on the Humboldt Jr./Sr. High School Leadership Team, Humboldt Free Will Shelter Board, Birth Choice Community Volunteer Staff Member, Humboldt Jr./Sr. High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She is a recipient of Teacher of the Year (Memphis ISD Secondary School – 2009), Tennessee Behavior Supports Project (2016-2021), Educational Innovator Nominee (2022), Teacher of the Year (Humboldt City Schools Secondary School – 2022/2023). Vonner says that participating in WestTeach will allow her to become more committed to the development of her community and desire to be connected with others who want to see growth and positive change in our areas of influence and West Tennessee as a whole.

