

SARA WELLS

University of Nebraska- at Kearney | 1615 W 24th Street - Kearney, NE 68849 | wellss1@unk.edu | 308.865.8985

EDUCATION

MAY 2020

School Principalship Endorsement PK-8 University of Nebraska at Kearney

AUGUST 2008

Master of Arts: Curriculum & Instruction University of Nebraska at Kearney

DECEMBER 2004

Bachelor of Arts: Education University of Nebraska

EXPERIENCE IN EDUCATION

AUGUST 2021 – PRESENT

Lecturer | University of Nebraska- at Kearney | Kearney, NE

Courses Taught:

- Teaching in a Democratic Society
- Intermediate Literacy
- Primary Literacy Content Block
- Growth & Development

Academic Advisor Undergraduate – Teacher Education

JANUARY 2013- December 2020

Board of Education | Axtell Community School | Axtell, NE

- Board of Education President 2019-2020
- Chaired negotiation committee
- Created an early childhood education program in the district
- PreK Advisory Committee member
- Established and managed district policies and procedures
- Adopted annual budgets and leveed needed taxes
- Hired and evaluated superintendent
- Oversaw hiring of all school employees
- Allocated district resources to meet student needs
- Started Ag Education and FFA programs
- Collaborated with Axtell Village Board and Axtell Community Foundation for long term community planning
- PBIS Team Member
- Attended Nebraska State Education Conference

AUGUST 2006-MAY 2009

4th Grade Teacher | Bryant Elementary School | Kearney, NE

- Created differentiated lesson plans to meet the needs of students with varied abilities, behaviors and learning needs.
- Implemented BLITZ reading framework to ensure all students received daily guided reading at their instructional level
- Collaborated with Title I, English Language Learners, Special Education, Speech and Language, School Psychology staff to meet student needs.
- Member of Bryant PBIS Team
- Served on Kearney Public Schools K-12 Language Arts Committee in the department of Curriculum and Instruction
- Selected and helped implement district language arts standards for the district
- Mapped curriculum to align with state and local standards
- Participated in MDT and IEP process
- Served on principal hiring committee, collaborated with superintendent to address staff concerns in hiring process
- Trained in Quantum Learning
- Supervised UNK practicum students
- Presented at Kearney Public School's Teachers using Technology

AUGUST 2005-MAY 2006

Middle School Language Arts Teacher | Axtell Community Schools | Axtell, NE

- Taught 5th - 8th Grade Language Arts
- 6th Grade reading and homeroom teacher
- Collaborated with the administration to restructure the middle school schedule to add additional reading instruction
- Analyzed the need for and advocated to add a middle school SPED teacher
- Implemented a summer reading program

**SERVICE TO THE
COMMUNITY**

- Axtell Ball Association President and Coordinator 2010-present
- TeamMates Mentor 2018-present
- Kearney County Community Foundation Board of Directors 2018-present
- Axtell Elementary Volleyball coordinator and coach 2019-present
- Axtell Jr. Cats Basketball volunteer 2019-present
- Hometown T-Ball coordinator and coach 2011-present
- Softball Coach 2018-present
- Church Deacon Board 2018-present
- Axtell Public Library Story Hour Volunteer 2011-2013
- Friends Program of Kearney Board of Directors 2009-2013

- Friends Program of Kearney Big Friend 2007-2009
- American Cancer Society- UNL Relay for Life Event Manager 2003-2004
- Big Brother & Big Sisters Volunteer 2002-2004

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT

- Masters in Rural Education – Development Committee 2021
- Elementary Education Curriculum Mapping – Committee 2021
- Teacher Education Social Committee 2022

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Citizen of the Year – Axtell, Nebraska 2012
- Miki Easton Continuing Education Scholarship 2005
- Adele D.P. Reed & Wayne O. Reed Education Scholarship 2004
- Minnie Latta Ladd Scholarship 2002-2204

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Positive Behavior Intervention Support Training 2020-2021
- Nebraska State Education Conference 2012-2019
- Legal Issues in Education – KSB School Law 2019

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATONS

- Nebraska Education Association 2004-2009
- Kearney Education Association 2005-2009
- Axtell Education Association 2004
- Golden Key International Honour Society – Member 2002

PRESENTATIONS

- Kearney Public School's Teachers using Technology 2009
- Early Childhood Education Community Presentation – Axtell Community Schools 2012
- Quantum Learning in the Classroom – Kearney Public Schools at UNK 2007