

# South Dakota Music Education Conference Presenters:

## Amy Laursen



Dr. Amy Laursen is the Assistant Professor of Horn at the University of South Dakota. She joined the University of South Dakota in the fall 2017 as an Adjunct Professor in the music department teaching Written Theory and an online section of World's Music; and was hired as the Assistant Professor of Horn beginning in the Fall of 2018. She currently is the Principal Horn in the Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra (IA), substitute horn with the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra (IA), and substitute horn with the Billings Symphony Orchestra (MT). Additionally, she is the horn player in the low brass trio, Trio di Velluto, with her husband Dr. Todd Cranson and her good friend, Dr. Jamie Lipton. The trio has commissioned new works for the ensemble and has performed at numerous regional and international conferences.

Previously, Dr. Laursen was the applied Horn Instructor at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, AR. There she taught applied horn, music theory and music education courses - including coordinating the annual HSU Elementary Music Workshop. While at HSU, Dr. Laursen regularly performed with the HSU Faculty Brass Trio, Faculty Brass Quintet, Faculty Woodwind Quintet, Natural State Brass Band, the Orchestra of New Spain where she played natural horn, and substituted with the Texarkana Symphony Orchestra and the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra.

In the fall of 2015, Dr. Laursen completed her DMA in Horn Performance from the University of North Texas where she studied with Dr. William Scharnberg. Her dissertation, "Determining the Authenticity of the Concerto for Two Horns, WoO. 19, Attributed to Ferdinand Ries" hopes to bring recognition to the relatively unknown work. Additionally, while at UNT she performed and recorded with the Wind Symphony, Symphony Orchestra, Baroque Orchestra, Opera program, and in the Center for Chamber Brass Quintet. As a teaching fellow at UNT, Dr. Laursen taught brass methods and in the horn studio and was heavily involved in the Music and Medicine program working with Dr. Kris Chesky.

Dr. Laursen received her Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Wyoming in 2006 and a master's in Horn Performance from UNT in 2008. Before returning to UNT to begin her doctoral degree, she taught elementary general music, band, and orchestra for two years in Wyoming. She has taught private lessons in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, in Arkansas, Iowa, and South Dakota. Dr. Laursen is happily married to Dr. Todd Cranson, and together they have a dog, Joey. She enjoys gardening, yoga, and cooking.

## Todd Cranson



Dr. Todd Cranson is the Assistant Professor of Low Brass and Director of Athletic Bands at the University of South Dakota. Previously, he held positions at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, AR and with the Hot Springs Music Festival. Additionally, while in AR he formed a low brass trio (horn, euphonium, and tuba), Trio di Velluto with his colleagues Dr. Jamie Lipton and Dr. Amy Laursen. The group has commissioned works for the unique instrumentation and recently performed at the International Women's Brass Conference and at the International Tuba Euphonium Conference. Dr. Cranson received his DMA in 2015 from the University of Illinois where his dissertation focused on 19th Century American Bands. In addition to his enthusiasm for teaching and performing, Todd is a passionate home brewer, opened a brewery in Hot Springs National Park, and includes stops at virtually every brewery in his path when traveling!

## Ann Usher



Ann Usher is a Professor of Music at The University of Akron, where she teaches graduate and undergraduate choral music education classes, supervises student teachers, and directs the University Singers. Prior to joining The University of Akron in 2000, she taught choral and general music for Parma and Solon City Schools, where her choral program was recognized for excellence at the junior high/middle school level. Her groups consistently received superior ratings at OMEA (Ohio Music Education Association) adjudicated events and performed for the OMEA Professional Conference in 1995, the ACDA Central Division Conference in 1996, and the OCDA Summer Conference in 1997.

In addition to her university duties, Dr. Usher also directs the Cleveland Orchestra Children's Chorus. This select treble choir of 5th - 9th graders performs throughout the year with the Cleveland Orchestra and the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus at Severance Hall. During the summer, the chorus performs at the Blossom Music Festival. The Cleveland Orchestra Children's Chorus also performed for the OMEA Professional Conference in 2003. Recent performances include Bach's St. Matthew Passion, Schumann's Scenes from Faust, Shore's Lord of

the Rings Symphony, Humperdink's Hansel and Gretel, Britten's War Requiem, Orff's Carmina Burana, Berlioz's Te Deum, Mahler's Symphony No. 3, Shore's Lord of the Rings Symphony and the annual Christmas Concerts.

Dr. Usher is the Immediate Past Chair and past Vocal Advisor and Vocal Affairs Chair for the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Adjudicated Events Committee, a past president for OMEA District VII, and an adjudicator for OMEA in voice and piano. She was the co-chair for the 2006 OMEA North Coast Professional Conference which involved over ten thousand teachers, students, clinicians, and exhibitors. She served for six years as the Junior High Repertoire and Standards Chair for Ohio Choral Directors Association and four years as the Youth/Student Activities chair for OCDA. Dr. Usher has served as a guest clinician/conductor/adjudicator for many Ohio organizations, for VanderCook College in Chicago, and for the Clark County School District in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dr. Usher received her Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Northern Iowa, a Master of Music degree in choral conducting from Kent State University, and a Ph.D. in music education also at Kent State University. Ann lives in Medina, OH, with her husband, Tom, daughter Kelsey, and twin boys Adam and Logan.

## Dave Sanderson



David N. Sanderson is the Assistant Professor of Music Education at the University of South Dakota where he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in music education and music technology. He completed a PhD from the University of Minnesota and earned Master in Music and Bachelor in Music Education degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Prior to his current appointment, Dr. Sanderson taught at Augsburg College and directed the Seward Community Concert Band in Minneapolis, MN. He previously instructed high school instrumental and vocal ensembles as well as secondary guitar and music technology courses in Nebraska. He has presented at the National Conference of the National Association for Music Education, the Society for Music Teacher Education Bi-Annual Symposium, the Big Ten Academic Alliance Music Education Conference, and state and local conferences in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

**Zach Harris**

Zach Harris is the Director of Orchestras and Modern Band at Capital and Helena High Schools in Helena, MT. Graduating in 2007 with a B.A. in Music Education from the Lionel Hampton School of Music, at the University of Idaho, Zach specializes in upper string and orchestral pedagogy. Beyond his 26 years of string experience, Zach also has nearly 20 years of Brass (tuba) and vocal (tenor 2/baritone) training. Prior to his current position Zach has taught 5-12 Band, 4-12 Orchestra, 6-12 Choir, K-5 General Music, and K-9 at a residential home for emotionally disturbed students. Beginning in 2016 Zach was hired to rebuild the string programs at both high schools. Starting with around 18 students total, the programs now boast over a 120 students. Also in 2016, Zach became trained in Modern Band at the National Modern Band Summit in Fort Collins, CO. This training introduced Zach to the approach of Music as a Second Language and the philosophy of approximation over mastery. After 20 years of the conservatory approach, Zach began developing beginning string pedagogy and curriculum based upon these approaches. Zach has presented his curriculum multiple times at Modern Band Summit National convention to both string and non-string teachers which has been met with great support and enthusiasm.

**Cody Hunter**

Dr. Cody Hunter is currently Assistant Professor of Music at Mayville State University in North Dakota where he directs ensembles and teaches courses in theory, arranging, conducting, and American music. Prior to his appointment at MaSU, Dr. Hunter taught grades 6-12 in band, choir, and music appreciation for Hardy County Schools in West Virginia. Dr. Hunter has performed with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Arkansas Symphony, Eroica Ensemble of Memphis, Symphony Orchestra Augusta, Bemidji Symphony, and Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra. Additionally, Dr. Hunter has webinar available through NAFME titled "Bassoon for Band Directors." Dr. Hunter was nominated for Mayville State's "Teacher of Year" in the spring of 2019.

**Dave Schaefer**

Dave Schaefer is currently in his 5th year as the Vocal Music Teacher at Ralston Middle School, where he directs the 7th and 8th grade concert choirs, the show choir, and teaches a music appreciation class. In addition to his curricular responsibilities, he currently serves on the coordinating committee for the NCDA Middle Level Summer Honor Choir. He received his Bachelor of Music in Education degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in December of 2013, and is currently working on his Master's in Choral Conducting through the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Outside of the school day, Mr. Schaefer has performed with Opera Omaha, taught voices lessons through Sing Omaha Studios, and taught the Papillion-La Vista South Marching Band and WGI Winter Winds.

**Dr. Mirna Y. Cabrera**

Dr. Mirna Y. Cabrera, born in Holguín, Cuba, is a choral conductor and music professor whose musical interests span from art music to children's folk repertoire and world musics. In 2007 she earned a Master of Music in choral conducting, and a Doctor of Musical Arts, in 2011 from the University of Kansas. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education, with piano emphasis from Loma Linda University, California. She is a certified music educator specializing in the Hungarian Kodály philosophy who has received training both in the United States and in Hungary and completed General Diploma studies at the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music, Zoltán Kodály Pedagógiai Intézet, Kecskemét, Hungary. She has taught music for over two decades at all educational levels, ranging from pre-Kinder to post-graduate. Dr. Cabrera currently teaches at Mid-Plains Community College, McCook, Nebraska where she directs the concert choir and instrumental ensembles, as well as teach music theory for majors and music history for non-majors.

**Dr. Peter Folliard**

Peter J. Folliard is the director of orchestras at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He earned the DMA degree in conducting from the Eastman School of Music (University of Rochester), MM from the Peabody Conservatory (Johns Hopkins University), and BM from the University of North Texas. Dr. Folliard has held conducting positions with The United States Air Force Band in Washington D.C., served as the Eastman Conducting Fellow with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and previously taught at the Crane School of Music at the State University of New York at Potsdam.

**Hannah Gibson**

Hannah Gibson graduated with her Bachelor's in Music Education from the University of Louisville in 2017. During her time there, she performed at the WASBE International Conference with the Wind Ensemble and performed solo works for the Student Gala and New Music Festival. She taught in Indianapolis Public Schools as a K-7 general music teacher for the 2017-2018 school year. Miss Gibson has returned to Louisville to pursue a Master's in Music Education.

**John LaCognata**

John P. LaCognata was appointed Director of Bands at the University of South Dakota in 2017. At USD, his responsibilities include conducting the Symphonic Band; teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in conducting, applied trumpet, and wind literature; administering the USD Quad State Honor Band Festival, USD Band Directors Institute, and USD Summer Music Camp; as well provide administrative and artistic direction for the entire band program. Dr. LaCognata received his Bachelor of Science in Music Education from the University of Illinois (1986), Master of Music in Trumpet Performance from Auburn University (1989) and PhD in Music Education with an emphasis in Wind Conducting from the University of Florida (2010) where he was awarded a Doctoral Teaching Fellowship.

**Dr. Robert Franzblau**

Dr. Robert Franzblau has lived and worked at the intersection of musical performance and music education for forty years. He currently serves as coordinator of undergraduate and graduate programs in music education at Rhode Island College, a mid-sized progressive urban college and the oldest public institution of higher education in the state. In addition to teaching courses in music education methods, music theory, and ear training, his duties include field placement and supervision of pre-service teachers. Previously, he served for twenty-one years as director of bands at Rhode Island College, conducting the wind ensemble and chamber winds. Under his direction, the Rhode Island College Wind Ensemble performed to enthusiastic reviews at regional conventions of the College Band Directors National Association and the National Association for Music Education. This fall he begins his tenth year as conductor and artistic director of the Rhode Island Wind Ensemble, an adult community band based in Providence.

Franzblau earned the Bachelor of Music in music education from the University of Iowa; studied with John P. Paynter and Bennett Reimer at Northwestern University, earning a Master of Music with a double major in conducting and music education; and received his Ph.D. in music education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Continuing education includes Level I instrumental certification in Music Learning Theory from the Gordon Institute for Music Learning.

His 2013 book, *So You Want to Be a Music Major: A Guide for High School Students, Their Parents, Guidance Counselors, and Music Teachers*, published by Meredith Music Publications, has received rave reviews in *The Instrumentalist* and the *Journal of the National Band Association*. He has presented clinics based on the book at numerous conferences including the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic and state music education associations in Texas, New York, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Massachusetts, among others. Other publications include "Why Music Isn't Basic" in the *WASBE Journal*, "A Conducting Analysis of Eric Whitacre's *October*" in *The Instrumentalist*, "Serve it Fresh!" in *The Music Director's Cookbook*, and an analysis of Steven Bryant's *Anthem* in Volume 9 of *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band*. He serves as editor of the *Rhode Island Music Educators' Review*.

He continues to produce and moderate a series of professional development conferences at Rhode Island College in both music education and conducting, with guests including Gunther Schuller, David Elliott, Marissa Silverman, Richard Colwell, Larry Rachleff, Frank Battisti, Weston Noble, H. Robert Reynolds, and Mallory Thompson.

Previous college teaching experience includes positions at Doane College in Nebraska and the University of Louisville; public school teaching experience includes five years at Oconomowoc (WI) High School, where under his direction the OHS Symphonic Band received top honors at state, regional, and national competitions. He serves as a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator for bands throughout the country.

**Ioana Galu**

Ioana Galu, a native of Romania, has enjoyed a national and international career in both Europe and the United States. Former Assistant Professor of Violin and chamber music at Gheorghe Dima Music Academy in Cluj, Romania, Galu has also been on the faculty at Heidelberg University, Bowling Green State University, and The College of Wooster. In August 2016, Galu joined the University of South Dakota as an Assistant Professor of Violin and member in the Rawlins Piano Trio. She has been on the faculty of the Eastern Music Festival (Greenboro, NC) since 2004.

A graduate of Gheorghe Dima Music Academy, Galu earned a second master's degree in violin performance from Bowling Green State University, an Artist Diploma from University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music and a doctorate in Contemporary Music from Bowling Green State University.

Galu has been awarded prizes in several national and international competitions, including Second Prize in the Mozart International Competition for Piano Trios (Romania), and First Prize and Special Prize of the SOROS Foundation at the George Enescu Violin National Competition (Romania). In 2014 Galu performed the world premiere of Marilyn Shrude's violin concerto *Libro D'Ore* with the Central Ohio Symphony and the European premiere with the Sibiu State Philharmonic in Romania. She gave the US premiere in October 2014, and subsequently recorded the concerto for Albany Records. In January 2015, Galu recorded "Music Under Political Unrest" - Works for Two Violins by Grazyna Bacewicz, Henryk Górecki, and Michał Spisak with Iuliana Cotirlea, violin, to be released in the near future.

During the season of 2019-2020, Galu will give the European premiere of Samuel Adler's Violin Concerto in Romania.

**Jack Stamp**

Dr. Stamp recently served as Visiting Professor of Music for the fall semester 2018 at Luther College. He has 40 years of teaching experience; 36 at the collegiate level. Prior to that appointment he was adjunct faculty for three years at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. He is recently retired from full-time employment as Professor of Music and Director of Band Studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania where he conducted the Wind Ensemble and taught courses in graduate conducting. He served as chairperson of the Department for 6 years and assistant chair for 11 years. Dr. Stamp received his Bachelor of Science in Music Education degree from IUP, a Master's in Percussion Performance from East Carolina University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Conducting from Michigan State University where he studied with Eugene Corporon. His composition teachers include Robert Washburn, Fisher Tull, David Diamond, Joan Tower, and Richard Danielpour. He was the

founder and conductor of The Keystone Wind Ensemble, a group dedicated to recording forgotten American band classics.





#### **Judy Bush**

Judy Bush is in her 29th year of teaching and her 16th year with Lincoln Public Schools. Before moving to Nebraska in 2000, she also taught in Kentucky and Ohio. Judy earned her BME from Northern Kentucky University and her Orff Certification with Rene Boyer from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. Her experience includes K-12 General and Choral Music, beginning band and marching band. She is a Past President of the Nebraska Music Educators Association where she served for twelve years, six of those as Public Relations/Advocacy Chair, and is currently NAFME North Central Division President. In 2016 she received the Bryan R. Johnson Distinguished Service Award from NMEA. She is active in creating professional development opportunities for teachers across the state and is an active teacher leader with Lincoln Public Schools, the University of Nebraska Lincoln Glenn Korff School of Music and the Nebraska Department of Education. A regular guest lecturer at Doane College for senior music education students, she has also presented on various topics to music educators

including leadership and advocacy at state and national conferences. She has also collaborated with faculty at the University of Nebraska Lincoln to create a Higher Ed Summit and a lab for sophomore music education practicum students. Judy has written articles for the Nebraska Music Educator magazine, the National Federation of State High School Associations Music Journal and the SmartMusic Blog, in addition to her own blog about her experiences in music education - among other topics at [musicteacherlifemusing.blog](http://musicteacherlifemusing.blog). at in her spare time. Judy and her husband Doug, also a music educator, have been married for 39 years and have three grown sons and two grandsons.



#### **Kim Bruguier**

Kim Bruguier is in her 13th year of teaching elementary music. Mrs. Bruguier teaches K-5 music/band at LB Williams Elementary in Mitchell, director for the Mitchell Area Children's Choir, and is the President for the South Dakota Music Education Association. She has been a clinician multiple times at the SD Music Education Conference, presented at the NAFME National conference in Dallas, and presented at TIE the Technology In Education conference. This Spring she will be presenting at the North Dakota Music Education Conference. Mrs. Bruguier has judged numerous vocal and band contests and given professional development sessions for both the Mitchell and Sioux Falls school districts. Recently she directed the Mitchell SDMEA Festival Choir site in the spring of 2018 and was the 2019 guest director for the Brookings Festival of Voices. In 2011 she was awarded the South Dakota Outstanding Young Music Educator Award and in 2017 was selected as both the LB Williams and Mitchell School District Teacher of the Year.



#### **Marguerite Wilder**

Mrs. Wilder is widely recognized as a conductor and clinician, having conducted All State and Honor Bands through out the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia. Serving as a resource person for in-service sessions, she works with both local and regional school systems and universities. Her clinics on Motivational Techniques for the Beginning Band has been presented three times at the Midwest Clinic and are often featured at state and national conventions.

Mrs. Wilder is a contributing editor for the books: Do It Band and Recorder Methods by James Froseth; Habits of a Successful Musician and Habits of a Successful Middle School Musician. She is a contributing author for Teaching Music through Performance in Beginning Band, Vol. 1 & 2: and Teaching Music through Performance in Middle School Band; GIA Publications, Inc. Currently Mrs. Wilder serves as a consultant, clinician, author and editor for GIA Publications, Inc. and is a "Yamaha Master Educator". Mrs. Wilder is also the Executive Director of the Feierabend Association for Music



#### **Paul Schilf**

Dr. Paul R. Schilf taught for 15 years at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. While at Augustana, Schilf served as associate director of bands and professor of music education. He conducted the Augustana Band, The College & Community Concert Band, The Northlander's Jazz Ensemble, the Jazz Lab Band, and the Augustana Brass Choir. Additionally, he taught classes in brass pedagogy, music education and supervised the instrumental student teachers. Prior to his appointment at Augustana College, Dr. Schilf was on the faculty at Concordia University in St. Paul, MN. He holds the Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Concordia University, Chicago, IL, as well as the Master of Arts Degree, with an emphasis in conducting, and the Doctorate of Philosophy Degree in Music Education, both from the University of Iowa. Schilf has taught all levels of instrumental music.

Dr. Schilf 's research interests lie in intergenerational instrumental music education and in the supervision of student teachers. He has presented clinics and presentations across the United States on these very topics, including at the prestigious International Mid-West Band and Orchestra Clinic. Dr. Schilf has led nine international tours with intergenerational ensembles

and has conducted these ensembles across Europe and Asia. His intergenerational research, student teaching supervision information, and music education articles have appeared in prominent national magazines and journals. During January of 2015 Schilf directed the Augustana Band on a 25-day tour of mainland China.

In November of 1992, Dr. Schilf was recognized as an Outstanding Nationally Certified teacher of music by the Music Educator's National Conference, an honor he maintains today. He is the Executive Director of the South Dakota Music Educators Association, and served the South Dakota State High School Activities Association as an All-State Band Adjudicator. His professional memberships include the National Association of Music Education (NAfME), and The College Music Society (CMS). In April of 2016, Dr Schilf retired from Augustana University and became general manager of Popplers Music Inc. of Sioux Falls and Grand Forks, ND. This new business venture allows for him to remain active in music education in a different capacity, offering assistance to parents and directors in the music merchandizing market



#### **Robert Sinclair**

Dr. Robert L. Sinclair serves as Director of Choral Activities and Dean of Graduate Studies for VanderCook College of Music in Chicago. His educational background includes three years at Luther College, where he sang in the Nordic Choir under the direction of Weston Noble. After transferring to Sam Houston State University, he completed his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Music degrees with B. R. Henson. In December of 2000, Sinclair completed a Ph. D. in Curriculum and Instruction (Music Education) at the University of Missouri-Columbia where he worked with Drs. David Rayl and Wendy Sims. He is an active clinician for junior high and high school students across the nation and abroad including Australia, the Bahamas, Canada, and Japan. Dr. Sinclair has presented sessions for the Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin Music Educators Associations as well as the Central, Southern and Southwest divisions of the American Choral Directors Association.

**Brett Nolker**

Dr. Brett Nolker is an associate professor of Music education at the University of North Carolina–Greensboro, specializing in choral and secondary-level general music education. He is a founding member of the Music Research Institute at UNCG and is active in music education research, primarily in the areas of music teacher education, music literacy, and in the developing of individual skills in the ensemble setting. Dr. Nolker is an active professional leader serving in various positions at the state and national levels. He is active in the National Association for Music Education, having served as National Chair for the Special Research Interest Groups for Sociology in Music Education and Music Perception and Cognition.

Dr. Robert L. Sinclair serves as Director of Choral Activities for VanderCook College of Music in Chicago. His musical mentors include Weston Noble, B. R. Henson, and David Rayl. He is an active clinician for junior high and high school students across the nation and abroad including Australia, the Bahamas, Canada and Japan. Dr. Sinclair has presented sessions for the Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, and Texas Music Educators Associations as well as the Central, Southern and Southwest divisions of the American Choral Directors Association.

**Sonja Kraus**

Sonja Kraus, a native of Germany, is an internationally acclaimed cellist, teacher, and music scholar, whose concertizing and teaching career has taken her through Europe, Asia, Latin America, and the United States.

Currently, Kraus holds the position of Assistant Professor of Cello at the University of South Dakota and is the cellist in the renowned Rawlins Piano Trio. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of South Dakota, Kraus was the Cello Professor at the Universidad de Especialidades Espíritu Santo as well as the principal cellist of the Orquesta Filarmónica Municipal de Guayaquil in Ecuador.

Kraus holds her bachelor's in Cello Performance and Pedagogy from the State University of Music and Performing Arts in Stuttgart (Germany) as well as a master's degree from the Jacobs School of Music – Indiana University Bloomington where she is currently completing her doctorate in Cello Performance. While in Bloomington, Kraus was the winner of the Popper Competition and received the 1st prize in the Indianapolis Matinee Musicale Competition.

During the past few years, Kraus participated as a teacher and performer in several music festivals and is a sought-out clinician and instructor of masterclasses throughout the US, Latin America, and Germany. Her latest performances as a soloist included Orquesta Sinfónica de Loja –

Loja, Ecuador, Camerata Romeu – Havana, Cuba, and University Orchestra of Indiana University – Bloomington, IN.

As a researcher, Kraus focuses on broadening the cello repertoire by identifying manuscripts and creating editions of unpublished cello works from the classical era. So far, she has found three cello concertos by Franz Anton Hoffmeister and is in the process of creating scholarly editions and first recordings for these works.

**Aaron Sandoval**

Mr. Sandoval has been a band director for over 15 years. Seven of those years as a head band director both at a large 6A Texas High School and a rural 5A Texas high school. Currently, he is pursuing his doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley where he serves as a research assistant. Still, in the field he is also an associate director at Economedes High School in Edinburg, TX. Mr. Sandoval has been teaching marching band since 1999 where he served as marching band technician then continued through his college years till he became a music teacher in 2003. He has taught Elementary music, Jr. High Band, AP Music Theory, and been an adjunct professor for music appreciation at South Texas College. Drum Corps International is where Mr. Sandoval found his passion for the performing arts, as a member of Phantom Legion, Blue Knights, and the Cavaliers. Through the years serving students in both large and small high schools have refined the process in teaching marching band. The fusion of wind band and marching fundamentals have allowed the rehearsal process to be multi-purpose and facet. He hopes that this session brings new ideas or validation to methods and systems

already in place.