

**2019-20 Association of Leadership Educators
Board of Directors Candidate Information**

Board Position	VP/Pres/Past-President-3 year term	
Candidate Profile		
	<p>Lorensen, Marianne</p>	<p>Biography Marianne Lorensen is a Specialized Teaching Faculty Member at Florida State University where she works with the undergraduate leadership education program. The program is housed in the Leadership Learning Research Center, which is a collaborative partnership between FSU’s College of Education and Center for Leadership & Social Change. A long-time ALE member and former board member who earned her doctorate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2014, Marianne’s education/career path has included family & consumer sciences education, extension education, and higher ed administration. Having enjoyed both faculty and student affairs work, she has been able to engage in leadership education in and out of the classroom. Her passions include experiential learning, youth and college student development, leadership theory, teaching and learning, podcasts, and strong coffee. She is always a fan of a great quote, and her favorite leadership quote is: “Tell me who your admired leaders are, and you will have bared your soul” (Garry Wills, <i>Certain Trumpets</i>, 1995). At the moment, you will probably find her glued to the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament.</p> <p>Candidate Statement I attended my first ALE Annual Conference in 2002 at the encouragement of a faculty mentor. I was graduate student at the time and just beginning to realize leadership education was a profession. The idea that something about which I was so passionate could become my life’s work was a game-changer. I have always seen ALE as a space to learn and grow in that respect. I served as the ALE Director of Member Services & Communication from 2008-2011. In that role, some of my responsibilities included launching a new ALE website, writing and distributing The Forum, and meeting regularly with the board to conduct association business. In</p>

	<p>addition to board service, I have also been part of the conference planning committee and the nominating committee, served as a reviewer for the awards committee, and have reviewed conference proposals and JOLE submissions regularly. I have watched ALE grow and evolve over the years, and I recognize that sometimes comes with growing pains. I am proud to be an ALE member, thankful for what it has meant in my personal and professional life, and committed to helping it continue to be a place where leadership educators can connect, share, and learn.</p>
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Board Position	Treasurer-2 year term
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Candidate Profile

	<p>McElravy, LJ</p>	<p>Biography I'm an Assistant Professor of Leadership in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, currently serve as the graduate chair, and teach graduate and undergraduate courses in leadership. I earned my Ph.D. in Leadership Studies, and am passionate about leadership education because I believe leadership is a developmental process that can greatly impact the success of teams, organizations, and communities. I attended my first ALE conference in Denver in 2011. As a new doctoral student presenting research for the first time, I found the people to be supportive and the conference to be a great place to learn. I love ALE because I still describe my experience the same way today.</p> <p>Candidate Statement I have been serving in the role of treasurer since July 2017. Within this time, I have tried to enhance the accuracy of our budgeting process by using detailed data for projecting future income. Additionally, within the budget, we created a 2.5% planned surplus line item to ensure financial sustainability. My goal as treasurer is to continue to be a good steward of the association funds and to provide timely, accurate, and transparent financial records to the board of directors and members.</p>
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Board Position (two vacancies)	At Large Board Member - 2 year terms
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Candidate Profile



Banter, John

Biography

My name is John Banter, and I am the Associate Director of Leadership and Community Engagement at Georgia Southern University. In this role, I primarily direct the Southern Leaders Program, which was recognized by ALE as a 2018 Outstanding Program of the Year and received the 2018-2019 NASPA Gold Excellence Award in the Student Union, Student Activities, Greek Life, Leadership, and related category. Along with the Southern Leaders Program, I direct the design/implementation of student leadership development programs and teach leadership courses along with a fantastic team of leadership educators for Georgia Southern University's multiple campuses. External to higher education, I facilitate leadership development workshops, strategic planning, and offer professional coaching for clients in non-profit, banking/finance, and governmental agencies. My research interests focus on leadership behavior development, the gamification of leadership education, pre-college leadership beliefs, and the use of human-based design in leadership education. I hold an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership: Higher Education Administration from Georgia Southern University.

Candidacy Statement

I have been a member of ALE since 2015 and have greatly enjoyed my membership with the association. From my first conference, I knew that ALE was an organization I would professionally call 'home' due to the diverse perspectives on leadership and the rich network of leadership educators it provides. These aspects provide a method to enhance scholarly practice and expand our work in leadership education throughout the year with the annual conference, the Focus Area Networks (FANs), and through scholarly articles published in JOLE. Because of these pieces of professional engagement, our association has a firm foundation for future growth in all areas of leadership education. My own involvement with ALE has included being a conference presenter, the co-facilitator of the Student Affairs Leadership FAN, serving on the mini-grant review committee, and serving on a conference planning sub-committee. I look forward to continued service to ALE and would be honored to serve the association on the Board of Directors.



Foreman, Beth

Biography

My name is Beth Forman. I'm a Program Coordinator in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) at Iowa State University. I have held this position for 17 years. I coordinate and advise the CALs Ambassadors, which is a student laboratory in leadership development and includes both instruction and skill practice. These students collaborate with other students and university faculty to plan, implement, and evaluate recruitment activities. In addition, many of these students have Personal Development Plans, which involves setting personal goals, reflection, and receiving feedback. I also teach classes in Personal and Professional Leadership. Additionally, I have developed and led a study abroad to Germany and Poland on ethical leadership and have coached a Collegiate Leadership Team. Prior to my current position at ISU, I spent 13 years as an extension agent in Lucas County, Iowa. I have a PhD in Agricultural Education, from Iowa State University, a Master's in Human Growth and Development from Iowa State University, and a Bachelor's in Child, Parent, and Community Services from Iowa State University. My research interest is exploring the role of out-of-classroom experiences in creating undergraduate leadership outcomes.

My hobbies include crafting, gardening, and cheering for the Cyclones.

Candidacy Statement

I have been a member of ALE since 2011 and have attended seven conferences. During those conferences, I have enjoyed engaging with professionals in a wide-variety of leadership educator roles. I have served on five conference planning committees and regularly evaluate proposals for the conference. I value the relationship between research and practice and have found ALE conferences to be a good balance. ALE members are a friendly group of colleagues who genuinely care about others and have become project collaborators. I am currently coordinating a session for the Teaching/Pedagogy FAN group with faculty from three institutions. I have also enjoyed serving as a mentor for first-year attendees for several years. I am running for a position on the ALE Board because I would like to continue to give back to the organization. My priority would be to ensure the conference has the support necessary to provide members the best experience.

Secondly, I would continue to support efforts that would provide benefit to members throughout the

		<p>year. I have enjoyed the benefit of belonging to the FAN group and would continue to support these kinds of activities.</p>
	<p>Georges, Leah</p>	<p>Biography Leah Georges, Ph.D., M.L.S., is an Assistant Professor in Creighton University’s Doctoral Program in Interdisciplinary Leadership. She holds a B.A. in Psychology from Creighton University, a Master of Legal Studies degree from the University of Nebraska College of Law, and a Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Leah advises graduate students and leadership educators in teaching and advising best practices, leadership theory, and policy reform. She also conducts research and presents to local and national audiences in the areas of millennial leadership and generations at work, the power of effective followership, and emotion and legal decision making. Her interdisciplinary training at the intersection of psychology and law affords her the opportunity to explore complex, real-world leadership problems through a unique lens—with a goal to leave each outcome a bit better than she found it. Leah is also actively involved in the Omaha, NE community through several social-justice oriented nonprofit organizations, including as President of the Nebraska Innocence Project, an organization dedicated to improving the criminal justice system through education and reform.</p> <p>Candidacy Statement Leah has been an active member of the Association of Leadership Educators since 2016. She has served the organization in a number of capacities, including as a member of the annual conference Excursions Committee and as the coordinator for the organization’s service partner site since 2017. In this role, she has coordinated with conference city nonprofits to benefit the community through our time in the community. Leah currently serves as the Association for Leadership Educators’ Focus Area Network (FAN) Facilitator for graduate leadership education. She organizes opportunities for those interested in graduate leadership education to come together and discuss current trends and identify areas for further research for those engaged with teaching leadership at the graduate level. She is passionate about both online leadership education, as well as serving and supporting graduate students and would</p>

		<p>like to continue to support ALE in its efforts to increase its reach through empirically based best practices.</p>
	<p>Gleason, Michael</p>	<p>Biography Michael Gleason began as Director of the Leadership Institute at Washburn University in Topeka Kansas in May, 2013. In this role he oversees the curricular and co-curricular elements of the Leadership Institute, including the Leadership Challenge Event™ and the High School Leadership Academy. Michael teaches courses within the Leadership Studies Minor/Certificate Programs and the Master of Arts in Communication and Leadership. Prior to coming to Washburn, Michael worked at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, where his primary role was facilitating mentoring and experiential education programs, as well as advising students and providing professional development opportunities for faculty and staff. In addition to these responsibilities, Michael directed the High School Leadership Institute, was a Leadership Fellow, and taught numerous courses in the Institute for Leadership Education. Michael has also worked for Camp Adventure™ Child and Youth Services, an international leadership development program for college students.</p> <p>Michael earned a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership with an emphasis in Higher Education from Iowa State University. He has a Master of Arts in Education in Post-Secondary Education Student Affairs and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. His research interests throughout his relate to mentoring and leadership development.</p> <p>Candidacy Statement From my first time attending an ALE Conference, I have understood the value it brings to all of us who are leadership educators, whether in the curricular or co-curricular arenas. I think what makes ALE such an exciting and vibrant association is that members are able to find their own niche, yet have the opportunity to network with leadership educators from diverse perspectives and institutional representation. I have been involved with ALE since 2013 and have been a conference participant since 2014. I have served on the Conference Program Review Committee since 2014.</p> <p>During my time involved with ALE, I have seen the field evolve and have appreciated the way leaders have strategized to honor the many ways leadership is taught. I think work done in this area, such as the</p>

		<p>Focus Area Networks (FANs), has helped people to participate in the organization as a whole, yet find resources valuable to their specific work. If selected to serve on the Board of Directors, I would work to consider ways we might appreciate the unique ways each of us teaches leadership, yet maintain a strong association as a whole to yield the benefit of learning in a diverse organization.</p>
	<p>Guramatunhu Cooper, Nyasha</p>	<p>Biography Dr. Nyasha M. Guramatunhu Cooper is Associate Professor of Leadership Studies at Kennesaw State University and a graduate of the School of Leadership Studies doctoral program at Gonzaga University. Nyasha was born and raised in Zimbabwe, and the country’s social, cultural, and historical background features heavily in her Leadership Studies scholarship. As a Leadership Studies educator, Nyasha prizes exploration of non-Western contexts of leadership (particularly in African spaces), as well as the connection between leadership and cultural and social contexts. Additionally, Nyasha's teaching focuses on developing intercultural competence and global mindset in leadership education. Recognized for excellence in teaching, research, and service at Kennesaw State University, Nyasha has been honored as a recipient of the University College Distinguished Faculty Award, as well as the Kennesaw State Foundation Early Career Faculty Award.</p> <p>Candidacy Statement The Association of Leadership Educators (ALE) has been an integral part of my professional development as a leadership educator. I have been a member of ALE since 2017. During this time, I have been a member in good standing and actively involved in service to the organization. In addition to presenting at the annual conference, I have also served as a mini grant reviewer, conference proposal reviewer, conference concurrent sessions committee member, and award reviewer. I look forward to the opportunity to join the Board of Directors as a Member-at-Large. In this role, I commit to providing support for ALE initiatives such as the annual conference, recruitment, as well as any other initiatives that advance the mission and vision of the organization in support of leadership education and leadership educators. I hope to work with the Board and general membership of ALE to consider a formal mentoring program that will aid members in their professional development. I believe that leadership is</p>

		<p>taught and learned in community, and a structured mentoring program will be beneficial for leadership educators across the spectrum and in various stages of their careers.</p>
	<p>Niewoehner-Green, Jera</p>	<p>Biography Jera E. Niewoehner-Green began her leadership education journey as a high school teacher for Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS). With a B.A. in Spanish from Sweet Briar college, she instructed both Spanish and leadership development courses. Later she worked outside the classroom as a Career and Technical Education (CTE) academy coach for the Academies of Nashville where she designed and implemented teacher professional development curricula, as well as student engagement opportunities with university and business partners. During her tenure at MNPS, she completed her M.Ed. in Community Development and Action at Vanderbilt University with research focused on how high school service-learning can address community issues. In order to further her study of community development and leadership, she went on to earn a doctorate in leadership development and a graduate certificate in Latin American Studies at the University of Florida in 2017. Afterward, she joined the faculty at The Ohio State University as an Assistant Professor of Community Leadership. Her research has focused on gender and leadership in agricultural contexts and youth empowerment and leadership in communities. She also serves as the program coordinator for both the Community Leadership major and the university-wide Leadership Studies minor.</p> <p>Candidacy statement Transitioning from a career as a high school educator to a full-time graduate student in 2014 was challenging and intimidating. As I began to explore professional organizations, I was unsure if I could find a place where people would both value my prior experience and offer guidance for my future in academia. However, at the 2015 ALE conference, I found an energetic network of individuals eager and open to supporting and guiding peers in the field of leadership studies. Members were welcoming and presented a variety of perspectives on research and practice that influenced my work. Since 2015, I have presented posters and papers and led workshops and roundtables. I have also served as a mentor, a concurrent sessions track-chair, and concurrent</p>

		<p>sessions co-chair. Through all of these experiences, I have had a number of positive interactions with members who have graciously, either during or after the conference, shared resources and their expertise. As an at-large board member, I would like to continue fostering the collaborative spirit ALE members have developed and support the continued growth of the association. I am task-oriented and look forward to engaging in the work necessary to improve the communication, resources, and experiences in ALE.</p>
	<p>Steele, Michelle</p>	<p>Biography Dr. Michelle Cummings Steele is the Academic Director and Associate Professor for the Master of Arts in Leadership and Public Service at Lipscomb University. With more than 18 years of experience working with governmental agencies, she served as director of Nashville’s Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods, case manager for Mid-Cumberland Community Services Agency, and customer service supervisor for Metropolitan Nashville Department of Codes and Building Safety. In 2016, Dr. Steele co-facilitated the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County discussions on Race, Equity and Leadership (REAL Talk) that brought together over 1100 citizens. She also worked with the YMCA of Middle Tennessee on discussions about the future of the Northwest YMCA. Dr. Steele serves on the boards of Metropolitan Parks and Recreation, Adventure Science Center, Nashville Civic Design Center, Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty and League of Women Voters. Dr. Steele teaches students her passion for “leading change” through courses in leadership, community change, public policy, issues and ethics, and organizational skills and development. She holds a BS degree in criminal justice from University of Tennessee Chattanooga, MS degree in public service management from Cumberland University and Doctorate of Education in leadership and professional practice from Trevecca Nazarene University.</p> <p>Candidacy Statement I am very excited about the possibility of serving on the Association of Leadership Educators (ALE) Board of Directors as a Member-at-Large. I have been a member in good standing since 2017, first participating in the mentor program, then serving on the concurrent sessions committee in 2018 and 2019 and presenting at the annual conference in 2018. I won one of the awards for <i>Outstanding Educator</i></p>

		<p><i>Workshop</i> during the 2018 conference for my presentation on <i>Implementing a Dialogic Process for Social Change: Dialogue for Uncertain Times</i>.</p> <p>I am encouraged by ALE’s commitment to collaboration and dialogue based on empirical knowledge and practical experience. I would work to ensure we continue our efforts to bring theory to practice in leadership studies for the students we educate. Additionally, as a board member, I would commit to working collaboratively and positively with other board members where needed to advance the mission and goals of the organization. Specifically, I would be an asset in identifying speakers, excursions and helping with local logistics for our annual conference in Nashville, TN. I have enjoyed my time with ALE and I readily embrace the opportunity to serve on the board of directors, if nominated.</p>
	<p>Wiggen, Todd</p>	<p>Biography Dr. Todd Wiggen is an Assistant Professor with the Everett Dobson School of Business and Technology at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) and serves as the Coordinator of the Organizational Leadership program, the Editor-in-Chief of the Administrative Issues Journal, and as the co-advisor to SWOSU’s chapter of Phi Beta Lambda. Prior to joining the faculty at SWOSU, Dr. Wiggen served as an officer with the United States Coast Guard, retiring in 2016. Dr. Wiggen completed his Doctorate of Education in Organizational Leadership during his final year in the Coast Guard. He has also earned the distinction of Distinguished Toastmaster with Toastmasters International and the designation of Master Training Specialist from the Coast Guard. He is an avid motorcyclist and the founder of the Brothers in Arms Motorcycle Club (a veterans’ organization). Dr. Wiggen is married to Kate Wiggen and they have a son, Joshua, and four dogs.</p> <p>Candidacy Statement Objective To serve as an at-large board member for ALE, providing the perspective of both a leadership educator and a practitioner (as a retired military officer). Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Member since 2016 · Member, Conference Speakers Committee, 2018,

		<p>2019 Conferences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Conference Proposal Reviewer, 2017, 2018· Conference Award Reviewer, 2017· Reviewer, <i>Journal of Leadership Education</i>· Poster Presentation, 2017 Conference· Roundtable Presentation, 2018 Conference· Mentor, 2018 Conference· Editor-in-Chief, <i>Administrative Issues Journal</i> <p><i>My thoughts</i></p> <p>My attendance at the annual ALE conference the past two years has inspired and motivated me to become a better instructor while reminding me that being a teacher is a noble calling – I chose this career to share my knowledge and experience with my students and, hopefully, have a positive impact on their lives. After attending the ALE conference, I come home recharged with new ideas, new focus, and new approaches to enhance the learning in my classes. Armed with these new tools, I take risks and experiment in the classroom to better bridge the gap between theory and application. I am committed to ALE and value the mission of this organization. I would like to give back to ALE and its members by serving on its Board of Directors.</p>
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