

Jenny L. Neff, Ed.D

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Experienced teacher-leader with strong background in managing multiple projects, strategic planning, achieving goals, and guiding teams. Brings exceptional problem-solving skills and a proactive and collaborative approach to completing tasks. Known for adaptability, creativity, and a commitment to excellence. Dedicated to fostering professional relationships, making meaningful contributions, and supporting others in reaching their potential. Excels in developing efficient processes, communicating clear expectations, and providing high levels of support.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- **Leadership and management:** Provided leadership, direction, and support to faculty, staff, and students; with leadership roles in all positions, and increasing administrative responsibilities. Director for one of the nation's top summer music education programs for practicing music educators (UArts Summer Music). Effective strategic planner, bringing teams together to accomplish tasks.
- **Curriculum development and assessment:** Facilitated, wrote, and evaluated curricula in districts and at the national level. Collected, analyzed, and reported annual data on various financial and demographic metrics for summer program, as well as major state (PDE) and national reviews (NASM).
- **Teacher evaluation:** Extensive knowledge of the Danielson framework from the perspectives of an evaluated teacher, researcher, and college faculty member teaching the framework to pre-service teachers. Completed dissertation on Administrators' Perceptions on Danielson Framework for Teaching.
- **Partnerships and pathways:** Known for building relationships with community members and forging relationships with arts partners. Proven success in paving pathways of possibility for students, through accessing resources, creating connections, and creating support systems.
- **Personnel management:** Hired, trained, supervised, and evaluated teachers and staff for UArts Summer Music Studies. Designed and implemented processes, procedures, and protocols.
- **Professional development:** Supported faculty and staff through professional development planning in schools and for organizations with 200+ attendees.
- **Budgeting:** Planned and managed program budgets in higher education administrative role at UArts for music education programs. This included managing the Summer Music Studies program with a budget of \$250,000; and gross revenue of approximately \$400,000 annually.
- **Project management:** Responsible for managing many successful projects - from concerts and yearly planning as teacher/class sponsor, to department in-service planning/evaluation, and major conferences.
- **Scheduling:** Worked collaboratively with departments and office staff to plan complex schedules for lessons, concerts, and school events. served on a special task force to align middle school schedules.

EDUCATION

- Immaculata University - Malvern, PA | Doctorate of Education (Ed.D) | 2016
- Michigan State University - East Lansing, MI | Master of Music (M.M.) | 1992
- Michigan State University - East Lansing, MI | Bachelor of Music (B.M.) | 1990

CERTIFICATIONS

- Pennsylvania: Principal K-12
- Pennsylvania: Music K-12, Instructional II
- Pennsylvania: Administrative - Supervisory, Music

EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Instrumental Music Education | 08/2024 to 05/2025 (1 year contract)

University of Delaware - Newark

- Teach and advise undergraduate and graduate courses in instrumental music education; planning, teaching, assessing, and supporting students in coursework
- Collaborate with other faculty in co-taught courses, attend faculty meetings, and special events
- Work with and evaluate teaching assistants in courses
- Assist Center for Excellence and Equity in Teacher Prep with teaching placements

Professor & Program Director for Music Education | 08/2018 to 06/2024

University of the Arts - Philadelphia, PA *Note: UArts closed on June 7, 2024*

- Taught and advised undergraduate & graduate courses in music ed
- Coached, advised, and guided 40+ practicing educators pursuing their MM degree & research
- Connected with area schools, universities, and arts organizations in partnerships & projects
- Successfully carried out strategic planning for all music education programs - undergrad minor, MAT, MM
- Designed, developed, implemented, and evaluated music education programs
- Planned and managed multiple budgets, contracts, and payments
- Compiled data and evidence for PA Department of Education, as well as annual assessment reports
- Helped write and review National Assoc. for Schools of Music report & met with on-site evaluators
- Served on Faculty Council Executive Committee, School of Music Cabinet, search committees

Director - Master of Music and Summer Music Studies Programs | 10/2017 to 06/2024

University of the Arts - Philadelphia, PA *Note: UArts closed on June 7, 2024*

- Managed all aspects of UArts Summer Music Studies with a collaborative team: procurement, protocols, procedures, and processes
- Hired, trained, supervised, and evaluated 25-30 faculty and 6-8 staff annually
- Planned and managed program budget of \$250,000+ through Graduate Professional Studies.
- Managed a top revenue program with a \$250,000 budget, and up to approximately \$400,000 in gross revenue.

Instrumental Music Teacher | 01/2008 to 06/2018

Lower Merion School District - Ardmore, PA

- Director of Grade 6, 7, and 8 Concert Bands; approx. 70-100 students in each
- Team-taught band and orchestra classes with orchestra director with 400+ students in program
- Directed Jr. & Sr. Jazz Bands; program known for longest running jazz festival in region
- Created cross-curricular connections & collaborated with teacher of gifted program
- Held leadership roles - Principal Advisory Committee; Unified Arts Leader; middle school schedule task force, music curriculum writing, music technology lab project; designed SLO examples and co-presented workshop for district music teachers

Instrumental/General Music Teacher | 08/2001 to 01/2008

Tredyffrin/Easttown School District - Berwyn, PA

- Director of 7/8 instrumental music programs; band, orchestra, jazz band & festivals
- Founded Holiday Horns; created Composer Quorum; co-directed school musicals, 2002/2005
- Co-taught gifted music component of humanities program w/ gifted-teacher
- Held leadership roles - served on Curriculum Council & Student Achievement Comm.; renovation liaison; created guest artist opportunities, school-community-university partnerships; organized field trips, adjudications, and other area festivals and performances

Instrumental Music Director | 06/1996 to 04/2001

Meriden Public Schools - CT

- Managed and directed concert, marching and jazz bands; tripling size of band program
- Established & taught Advanced Placement Music Theory; taught guitar and piano classes
- Organized/hosted U.S. military bands, guest artist programs, trips, and local partnerships
- Held leadership roles - served as Chair for the Music Curriculum Committee; planned activities & fundraisers for the Class of 2001 as chief sponsor for 4 years

Instrumental and General Music Teacher | 11/1992 to 06/1996

Meriden Public Schools - CT

- Taught 800 students a week in elementary & middle school levels; planned professional development days for department/neighborhood districts; collaborated w/ teachers on projects

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

- Concert Band Conductor; Music Theory & Jazz Appreciation Teacher, New England Music Camp, Sidney, Summers 06/2014 to 08/2017, Selected literature, led daily rehearsals & concerts
- Assistant Band Director, Radnor High School, PA, 08/01/11 to 08/31/13, Assisted w/ 210-member marching band during the Fall and for parades
- Concert Band Director, Bronze Tour, American Music Abroad Honors Bands, Choirs & Orchestras, Voorhees, NJ, Summers 2008-2012, Conducted concert band & string ensemble for seven-country tour

PROFESSIONAL PROJECTS - A complete list can be found at [Creative EDge](#)

Presentations - Selected Highlights

- *Paving Pathways of Possibilities*, Keynote - Michigan Music Ed Conf, Grand Rapids, 2025
- *Supporting Girls in the Group* - International Society for Music Education, Helsinki, Finland, 2024
- *Using the People's Library to Inspire Your Students...* - International Music Education Summit, 2021
- *No Teacher is an Island* - National Association for Music Education, 2019
- *A Curriculum Project of NAFME & the Library of Congress*, - w/ B. Schneckenburger & J. Siebert., 2019

CURRICULUM CONSULTING

- Radnor Township School District, Wayne, PA 2023-2024 - Music curriculum auditor
- Collegium Charter School, Downingtown, PA 2023-2024 - Music curriculum consultant
- West Chester Area School District, West Chester, PA 2023 - Music curriculum consultant

SPECIAL EVENTS & PROJECTS

- Planning Committee Member - Lewisburg HS Alumni Choir honoring Dr. James Jordan, 2023-2024
- Monthly Contributor for Teaching w/ Primary Sources, LOC partnership, 11/01/19 - 12/31/21
- Mentor for HS student's project Key of She Girls' Jazz Conference, UArts, 2019, 2024, 2025
- Member of NAFME's Curriculum Writing Team for "Teaching with Primary Sources," 2017-2018

LEADERSHIP & AWARD HIGHLIGHTS

- Three-time nominated Grammy Music Education Award quarter-finalist, 2022, 2023, 2024
- Distinguished Alumni Award - Honored by Lewisburg Area HS Alumni Association, 2022

ORGANIZATIONS

- Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)
- Phi Delta Kappa International
- Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE)
- National Association for Music Education (NAfME)
- International Symposium for Music Education (ISME)
- Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA)
- Women Band Directors International (WBDI)

PUBLICATIONS - SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

- Amplifying Our Voices Through Music - Teacher guide, UArts, Philadelphia, 2022
- Top 10 Strategies to Support Girls in Middle School Jazz, Neff & Eskin, Teaching Music, 2022
- A Curriculum Project - National Association for Music Education & the Library of Congress, 2018
- Administrators' Perceptions of...PA Standards-Based Teacher Evaluation, PEL, PA-ASCD, 2016
- Teacher Evaluation: Spotlight on the Classroom Environment, PMEA State Journal, 2016
- Administrators' Perceptions of...PA Standards-Based Teacher Evaluation, Dissertation, 2016

ONLINE ARTICLES - SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

- Has Your Flame Burned Out...Lost Your Spark?, Neff, J. & Schwartz Reichl, L., 2021, NAfME
- Creative and Engaging Experiences for Student Teachers, Hodgson, K. & Neff, J., 2020, NAfME
- Bringing the P.I.E....How to Continue Being Purposeful, Intentional, and Explicit, 2020, Alfred
- Organize and Prioritize: Teacher "Time on Task," 2019, Alfred
- No Teacher is an Island: Tools for Today's Survival, 2019, NAfME
- No Time for Questions! Or Is There?, 2017, NAfME
- Teacher Evaluation: Keep Calm and Improve Your Craft, 2017, NAfME

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Cecil County Public Schools, MD
- Carroll County Public Schools, MD
- Schools, MD; Archbishop Ryan HS
- Philadelphia Music Alliance for Youth
- Manteca Unified School District, CA
- Lenape & Cape May Regional, NJ