



Amber James

WHAT DO YOU DO?

LRC - Forest Rose EA, Hilliard EA, Whitehall EA, South-Western EA

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?
15 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

This job provides me the opportunity to witness my members making a difference every day - and I get to play a small role in that.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

“The pandemic lovingly forced me to improve my Google (Meet, Doc, Sheet) skills. I’m a better LRC for it.

Helping Gahanna EA’s Communications team during their strike (during the pandemic) was no small feat either.”



Stuart Graham

WHAT DO YOU DO?

IT

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?
24 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

I enjoy training and presenting material about living safely with technology in today’s online world. I also enjoy implementing technology based solutions for the many varied needs of the organization.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

OEA Computer Services migrated the organization’s staff to a mobile WFH model and continued to support staff and OEA operations remotely.



Frederick Pruitt

WHAT DO YOU DO?

LRC - Sylvania, Washington, Ottawa Hills, Ottawa Hills SSA, Perrysburg, Wauseon, Evergreen, Lake Erie, Northwood EA, Northwood SSA, Pike Delta York

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?
24 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

Negotiating Contracts

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Helping teachers reach an agreement with local school districts and collaborating with fellow PSU colleagues.



Annette Kubiske

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Labor Relations
Consultant (LRC)

HOW LONG HAVE YOU
WORKED AT OEA?
23 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

Teaching members how to advocate for themselves.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Helping leaders help members. Every time we help, improve, or maintain rights, it's an accomplishment.



Demetrice Davis

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Education Policy and
Practice Consultant

HOW LONG HAVE YOU
WORKED AT OEA?
18 1/2 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

Designing and facilitating training programs that meet the needs of OEA members.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

During the COVID-19 Pandemic I tapped into my communication and production experience to help lead the team that quickly pivoted OEA in-person professional development programs (Summer Leadership Academy, Minority Leadership Training Program, and OEA Day of Collaboration) to virtual programs which kept OEA members connected during this tragic time of isolation and loss.



Denise Carmack

WHAT DO YOU DO?

LRC - Maumee River

HOW LONG HAVE YOU
WORKED AT OEA?
11 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

Building relationships that last beyond the position.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Some of my local leaders (past and present) share personal events such as pictures of new children and grandchildren, new homes they built, or even things they are doing over the weekend. I enjoy the personal connection because it reminds us that we are still human and have lives beyond OEA. I am most proud of sharing the masks that I made throughout the pandemic, before masks were so available. I made the masks according to the wearer's preferences. This wasn't part of my OEA job, but the service was still necessary to help protect my colleagues and members.



Hilary Conley

WHAT DO YOU DO?

LRC - Licking County Service Council

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?
5 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

Helping members overcome obstacles and watching leaders develop their skills is my favorite part of this.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

We were all able to pivot quickly. We (PSU members) didn't miss a beat! I'm so proud to be a part of PSU.



Tom Booth

WHAT DO YOU DO?

LRC - Columbiana County (Beaver, Columbiana, Columbiana Classified, Crestview, E. Liverpool, E. Palestine, Leetonia, Lisbon, Salem, Southern, United, Wellsville)

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?
11 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

Bargaining

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Major bargaining and arbitration wins



Nicole Smith

WHAT DO YOU DO?

LRC - Eastern Edge Educators Leadership Council

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?
4 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

I enjoy providing local leaders with the tools and resources they need to effectively advocate for their members and build local capacity.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Getting through crisis bargaining with Lexington TA and Lexington SA at the end of 2020.



Sherri Fowler

WHAT DO YOU DO?

LRC - Tri County Council

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?
7 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

Working with members that have a passion to help their fellow members.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Being able to find the answers with help from our fantastic covid-19 team on questions in uncharted waters that have never been raised before.



Will Klatt

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Uniserv Organizer

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?
5 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

My favorite part of my job is working with members to accomplish something that would be impossible if we all tried to do it on our own. Working with our members as they support each other and fight for their students gives me a tremendous amount of pride in the work I get to do everyday. The biggest and most important things that happen in this world is done when people come together to solve problems.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Working to support the Gahanna teachers when they went on strike over safety issues related to the pandemic and won was a honor.



Kerri Hoover

WHAT DO YOU DO?

LRC in the annex - I represent the locals in Pickaway and Fayette Counties - just south of Columbus

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?
13 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

I have a passion for public education and I love working with the members to support their needs and also enhance their local relationship with the community and the administration.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Our collaborative work with administration during a very trying time to make sure schools were open and safe was something I was most proud of during the pandemic. Also, we have successfully negotiated two contracts virtually during the pandemic that included across the board increases for the entire bargaining unit during a difficult time.



Diana Watson-Urban

WHAT DO YOU DO?

LRC - Hamilton
Local EA, Gahanna
Jefferson EA,
Plain Local EA,
Upper Arlington
EA, Westerville EA,
Westerville ESSA)

HOW LONG HAVE YOU
WORKED AT OEA?
15 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA
MEMBERS?

I love helping members discover and use their
voices to stand up for what is right.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD
OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

During the pandemic, I am most proud of my local
that stood strong and went on strike to ensure that
students received the best possible education during
the 2020 - 2021 school year. It would have been
easy for members to capitulate to administration
and for less that students deserve, but our members
did what they typically do... the set aside their own
comfort and stability to be their students' voices. I
have never been so honored to work with a local as
I was this past October.



Matt Conrad

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Labor Relations
Consultant (LRC)

HOW LONG HAVE YOU
WORKED AT OEA?
8 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA
MEMBERS?

Helping members have a voice in their
workplace.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD
OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Members standing up and demanding safe
conditions for their students and themselves.



John Avouris

WHAT DO YOU DO?

LRC - Unified
Portage Council

HOW LONG HAVE YOU
WORKED AT OEA?
16 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA
MEMBERS?

My favorite part of working with OEA members
is helping them find and strengthen their sense of
dignity and self-respect and the collective power
to stand up for what's right that comes from that.
It happens in big ways (like with the locals I've
had when they've been on strike or in a bargaining
crisis) and small ways (like when a new building rep
realizes they can push back on their administrator
while advocating for a member). And all of that
leads to making their work lives better. Every time
it's a feeling that is hard to beat!

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD
OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Helping Streetsboro teachers and support staff stand
up and stand strong to win both a fair contract and
a side agreement with safety and working condition
protections against a Board and administration that
thought these locals were bluffing.



Diedri Raines

WHAT DO YOU DO?

LRC - Delaware Area Career Center EA, Delaware City Teachers Assoc, Dublin EA, Dublin Support Association, and Olentangy Teachers Association

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?
14 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

Meeting and working with so many different people. Helping people solve problems and learn how to be advocates.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Bargaining a contract via Zoom, and helping my locals navigate this last year.



Donna Christman

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Labor Relations Consultant (LRC)

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?
9 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

Helping members and locals realize their potential is the best part of what I do. When you see a local realize their own power is an amazing feeling.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Providing an ear for local leaders to vent their frustrations and anxieties and helping them see a light at the end of a tunnel.



Jeffery Kestner

WHAT DO YOU DO?

LRC - KALM Leadership Council

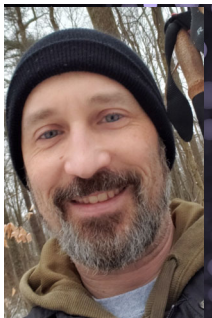
HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?
25 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

I most enjoy guiding OEA members to realize their strength in dealing with school district management. Our members are so often treated as children by school boards and administrator, and seeing them flex their collective muscle to achieve their goals is gratifying.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

I've been proud to offer information and advice to local leaders to help them deal with the sometimes outrageous demands and expectations of administrators during the pandemic. The crisis was often used by management to attempt to manipulate our members and force them to engage in activities beyond the scope of their employment.



Jon Hart

WHAT DO YOU DO?

**System Analyst /
Application
Developer**

HOW LONG HAVE YOU
WORKED AT OEA?

18 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

As a technology expert, I thought I'd spend my career in a boring cubicle helping a Fortune 500 company make money. Instead, I've been able to spend the last 17+ years using my skills to help OEA fight for and preserve the rights of educators in the state of Ohio. I love when someone comes to me with a problem that I can help them solve, making their work easier and facilitating the work of my colleagues. It is a true privilege to have a job that I also consider a calling. Working to support OEA members brings me great satisfaction and pride knowing that I am making a difference for our members and the children they serve.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

PSU staff had to adjust how we work during the pandemic, just as the educators across Ohio had to adjust how they teach and care for our children. The OEA Computer Services Department quickly made sure that our associate staff had laptops and phones to be able to work from home. We acquired mobile meeting technology for our staff and trained staff to use it to meet virtually with our members. We helped re-invent the OEA Representative Assembly, the OEA Advocacy and Organizing Institute, and many other events as we moved them to online experiences. We facilitated weekly large Zoom meetings with President Dimauro and local leaders and helped hold virtual ratification meetings after contract negotiations. The challenges of this time have been many, but technology has been one of the keys to continuing the work of OEA going during the pandemic.



Marcus Whiteamire

WHAT DO YOU DO?

**Labor Relations
Consultant (LRC)**

HOW LONG HAVE YOU
WORKED AT OEA?

4 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

I love being able to work collectively with people I deeply respect in professions that I also deeply respect to effect positive change. One of the best feelings in the world is to know you're part of something meaningful that has the potential to improve people's lives, both in and beyond our union.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Working in crisis with both OEA unions in Streetsboro to partner with the community and move their Board of Education from more or less refusing to bargain health and safety at all to reaching a strong and fair agreement on those issues and more.



Sheila Saad

WHAT DO YOU DO?

**Labor Relations
Consultant (LRC)**

HOW LONG HAVE YOU
WORKED AT OEA?

24 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

I get great pleasure from the personal connections and friendships made with local leaders and members as we work together to better protect the interests of the association and its members through strength, unity, and organization.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Helping my members navigate the confusion, angst, fear, challenges, and uncertainty caused by the pandemic has been both challenging and rewarding. There is not one moment in particular that stands out; for me, the entire YEAR has been one gigantic moment in time.

#PSUworks4U





Christopher Dodd

WHAT DO YOU DO?

LRC - Ashtabula County

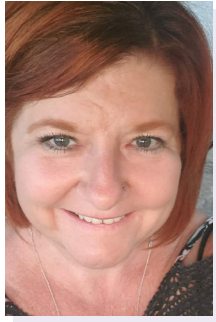
HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?
3 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

Helping them learn to advocate for their local.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

I have been able to continue to bargain and arbitrate through this pandemic.



Susan Dodge

WHAT DO YOU DO?

LRC - Medina County Leadership Council

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?
11.5 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

The best part of my job is helping to give a voice to Public Education employees. So many people who don't work in schools and have no training or understanding about how kids learn or how schools operate for students make decisions for students and school employees. The union helps our members have a voice in their work place.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Helping my local unions secure MOUs and other practices to address the many changes in working conditions that were necessitated by the pandemic...and winning an arbitration on a unilateral change that one district (who refused to do an MOU to address pandemic related working conditions) made without bargaining. Score one for the good guys!



Eric Watson-Urban

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Collective Bargaining & Research Consultant

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?
18 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

Giving OEA members the tools and watching them use them to take control of their work lives and improve public education.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Being able to provide resources, support, and real-time answers on how education could continue in a safe and effective way.



Jacci Johnson

WHAT DO YOU DO?

LRC - locals in Summit & Portage counties

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?

Less than 1 year

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

The variety of personalities and issues that I've encountered so far along with the pride our members take in their profession.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Being able to be a "calm port in the storm of uncertainty". Our members know that no matter how chaotic, we are still here to support them.



Amelia Woodward

WHAT DO YOU DO?

LRC - SHOES-Perkins EA, Huron EA, Huron Classified, EHOVE (career center), Margaretta TA, Gibsonburg TA, Danbury EA, DANE (Danbury Classified), Bellevue EA, Woodmore EA, Oak Harbor EA.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?

7 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

Empowering locals with the tools they need to win good contracts, grieve and arbitrate contract violations, and helping to resolve day to day issues that arise for our locals and members.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Helping members advocate for their ADA rights for a reasonable accommodation so they can teach remotely.



Alex Nelson

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Collective Bargaining & Research Consultant

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?

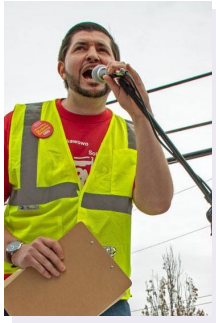
4+ years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

My favorite part of this work is helping our members understand the truth about their district's finances. Sometimes, I meet members who have been told by their boss for years that they can't afford to pay them what they're worth. Seeing them light up and realize that there's actually an opportunity to fight for real economic improvements in their life is a beautiful thing. The work our members do is so important, and if I can help them build the kind of economic life they deserve, it makes me feel good.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

This isn't one specific activity, but helping locals untangle the web of all the complicated changes to district finances this year. Between new federal legislation, executive orders, the impact of the pandemic, and the prospect of a new funding formula – there's a lot going on in school finance. It's more complicated than it's ever been. I feel good about my work keeping locals informed about all these changes.



Jeremy Baiman

WHAT DO YOU DO?

LRC - Columbus EA

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?

8 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

Educators are smart, fearless, and always have their students' best interest in mind. I love helping OEA members discover that with the power of solidarity and a strong organizing strategy, they are unstoppable!

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Working with a team of PSU colleagues and 600 Gahanna Education Association members to coordinate a successful strike for safety, equity, and success!



Katie Olmsted

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Media Relations Consultant

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?

1 year

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

I am in awe every day of OEA members' dedication to their students and their communities. I'm passionate about telling educators' stories and giving them the tools they need to maximize the power of their collective voice.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

I've become a big fan of doing crisis communications trainings via Zoom. We're able to do them at a time that's more convenient for everyone and members can attend in their PJs if they're so inclined. I was worried the technology would come between me and the members, preventing effective communication, but the platform has actually made communication easier and better!



Jess Atilli

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Labor Relations Consultant (LRC)

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT OEA?

6 years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING TO SUPPORT OEA MEMBERS?

I love being able to help Locals organize and create strategies that empower them, and their members, as they work to advocate for themselves and their members.

WHAT WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF DURING THE PANDEMIC?

I was most proud of helping one of the locals that I work with develop a health and safety committee during the pandemic that was able to successfully advocate for its members and secure PPE and other safety procedures for its members.