

## Biographies for ELA/Literacy Team

### SIA 2.0 Lead Trainer

#### **RACHEL ETIENNE**

*Executive Vice President of Professional Learning, Student Achievement Partners*

At SAP, Rachel Etienne directs professional learning activities designed to improve teachers' content knowledge and classroom effectiveness as they implement their state-adopted standards. Ms. Etienne creates and reviews exemplar curriculum materials aligned to these standards. She served as an ELA/Literacy coach on the OCTAE SIA initiative for over half a decade. As a coach, she supported state teams in implementing their new challenging state standards. She also contributed to the development and identification of tools and materials that states could use for virtual and in-person training. Ms. Etienne led the development of SIA ELA/Literacy classroom videos and accompanying materials for adult educators' use via LINCS. As a result of her work, OCTAE invited her to join the LINCS National Trainer Cadre. Before joining SAP, Ms. Etienne worked as a classroom teacher for the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE). There, she served as a premier literacy coach for NYCDOE and several nationally recognized charter school organizations. Ms. Etienne holds a BS in Mathematics and Elementary Education from Eastern Michigan University.

### SIA 2.0 Coaches

#### **KATE CRIST**

*Senior ELA/Literacy Specialist of Professional Learning, Student Achievement Partners*

Kate Crist designs materials for teachers and organizations and facilitates research-based professional learning opportunities tied to states' challenging standards. She also provides standards-aligned professional learning opportunities and coaching at an adult education program in Reno NV. Ms. Crist served as an ELA/Literacy coach for three years on OCTAE's most recent SIA initiative. In that role, she supported state SIA implementation teams working to implement their new state standards. Ms. Crist has extensive experience supporting the alignment of instructional materials to high-quality state standards. She served as a calibrator and reviewer for EdReports, an independent nonprofit that measures the alignment, usability and quality of K-12 instructional materials. She also served as a peer reviewer for the Educators Evaluating the Quality of Instructional Products (EQuIP) panel. Before joining SAP, Ms. Crist worked as a classroom teacher, program coordinator, professional development specialist and instructional coach in California and Nevada public schools. She was also a member of the Teacher Research Group at UC Berkeley History-Social Science Project. Ms. Crist holds a BA from the University of California, Santa Cruz and a MAT from the University of San Francisco.

## MEREDITH LIBEN

*Reading Done Right; Senior Fellow for Strategic Initiatives, Student Achievement Partners*

Meredith Liben has served as the ELA/Literacy content lead for the SIA initiative since 2013. In that capacity, she has prepared the SIA ELA/Literacy professional development materials that appear on LINCS. She has provided technical assistance and support to the ELA/Literacy team of SIA coaches and to state teams transitioning to implement their state-adopted standards. She continues to provide support and technical assistance for curriculum development, standards implementation and teacher training to various schools, districts and education groups. Through her work with other educators, she continually strives to improve the quality of standards-based literacy instruction and bring research into practical application. Ms. Liben is currently a Senior Fellow at SAP, supporting strategic direction and new initiatives. Previously, Ms. Liben taught reading at the Career and Technical Teacher Education Program, Vermont Technical College and English at Community College of Vermont. She also directed the text-complexity validation research study for the CCSS that supports the reading standards for adult education, released by OCTAE in 2013. Ms. Liben holds a BA in Classics and Government from Oberlin College and a teaching certificate from the University of Massachusetts. She also holds a MAT in Rhetoric and Teaching of English from the City University of New York.

## DIANA MCINTYRE

*Dean of Students, Washoe County School District, Reno, Nevada*

Diana McIntyre has been working with students of all ages in the Washoe County School District for the past eighteen years. In her current Title I role, she guides district 21st Community Learning Centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities through a variety of partnerships and school-based programming. Previously, Ms. McIntyre worked with Nevada's Adult Education and Family Literacy Act program for five years. In that position, she coordinated and provided statewide professional development, managed the Mentor Teacher Program and served on Nevada's SIA implementation team. She developed multiple levels of training materials for both in-person and online trainings. She also served as a table coach at three national SIA institutes, supporting state teams as they learned how to implement SIA innovations. For eight years, Ms. McIntyre taught adult ELs at Truckee Meadows Community College in career pathways, workforce readiness skills and citizenship. For 11 years, she taught at the K-12 level, and she served as Dean at the elementary, middle and high school level. She holds a BS in Education and Special Education from the University of Nevada, Reno and an M.A.Ed. in Administration from the University of Phoenix.

## LAKSHMI NAYAK

*Coordinator, ELA Curriculum & Instruction Professional Development Center, Massachusetts System for Adult Basic Education Support (SABES)*

Lakshmi Nayak coordinates the logistics, content and outreach for the Massachusetts state-funded SABES ELA Curriculum & Instruction Professional Development Center and curates ELA content for the SABES website. She has presented workshops on incorporating science and social studies into AE classrooms and taught an AE science class at the Cambridge Community Learning Center for several years. Ms. Nayak served as a member of Massachusetts' SIA implementation team, where she incorporated learning on CCR standards for ELA/Literacy into professional development offerings. She advised practitioners to create or revise standards-aligned curricula and established a professional learning opportunity using SIA tools to assess teaching practices and materials. Ms. Nayak brings over 25 years of experience teaching students of all ages the knowledge and skills needed to connect meaningfully to the world around them. Before joining SABES, Ms. Nayak coached university students through cross-cultural internships from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to India. She also taught middle school science and was a high school writing tutor. In addition, she taught ELA, math, science, social studies, health & wellness, and the science of learning to GED students in Boston. She holds a BA from Wellesley College and a joint M.Ed. from Tufts University and the Shady Hill School Teacher Training Course.

## SHAKIELA ROSE RICHARDSON

*Director of English Language Arts, UnboundEd*

Shakiela Rose Richardson is the lead ELA content developer for UnboundEd. UnboundEd is an education reform nonprofit that provides standards-aligned resources and training for K–12 teachers and school leaders. In this role, she has created a companion curriculum to EngageNY with ample support for struggling students and an easy to implement format. She develops curricular guidance documents and hosts virtual and in-person meetings to ensure alignment with CCR standards. Ms. Richardson also develops and delivers professional learning opportunities to secondary ELA teachers, coaches and administrators at bi-annual standards institutes. She regularly leads communities of practice with partner organizations and districts, such as the District of Columbia and Odell Education. Additionally, Ms. Richardson has presented culturally responsive teaching practices for the National Council for Teachers of English. Before joining UnboundEd, she worked as a high school instructional coach in Newark, NJ. In that role, she launched literacy-based personal learning communities to support the implementation of standards-based education. Ms. Richardson taught ELA at Newark Evening High School to students pursuing their GEDs. She also taught at Newark Bridges High School, which served young adults who were over-age and under-credited due to interrupted learning. Ms. Richardson holds a BA in English and Secondary Education from William Paterson University. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in educational leadership at Montclair State University.

## SARAH SIMPSON

*Instructor, Kentucky Adult Education Skills U, Lawrence County*

Sarah Simpson is the lead instructor at Lawrence County Skills U in Kentucky. She teaches beginning literacy, ELA and math classes. Before this work, Ms. Simpson created a series of ELA course frameworks for the Kentucky Educational Development Corporation. She also produced a contextualized math unit to prepare adult education students for training in healthcare. She was named a 2015 finalist in Kentucky Adult Education's Outstanding Lesson Competition. As a standout member of Kentucky's SIA implementation team, OCTAE filmed her as she taught a standards-aligned lesson. The SIA video, portraying Sarah's classroom activities, plus the accompanying Video Resource Pak are available under SIA Professional Development Resources on LINCS. The intent of filming Sarah's classroom and students was to demonstrate exemplary practices in facilitating standards-based ELA/Literacy teaching and learning. Ms. Simpson has taught in a range of Kentucky programs, including ABE/ASE, ESL and corrections. She also consults as a lesson plan developer and content and curriculum expert. Ms. Simpson holds a BS in Elementary Education from Kentucky Christian University. She is currently pursuing her M.A.Ed. as a Literacy Specialist at the University of the Cumberlands.

## SUSAN OTERO

*Educational Specialist, Fairfax County Public Schools Adult ESOL Program, Virginia*

In her tenth year, Susan Otero is an educational specialist with the Fairfax County Public Schools Adult ESOL Program. Ms. Otero has over 30 years of experience in adult ESOL. Throughout her career, she has gained expertise in teaching, developing curricular resources, managing programs and designing professional development. Ms. Otero has developed and facilitated professional development workshops for local, state and national audiences. Her work has focused on creating tools to assist teachers in delivering instruction and document progress using the English Language Proficiency Standards for Adult Education. Her work includes publishing online tutorials for new staff. Additionally, Ms. Otero developed a standardized oral appraisal and training seminar. She also created satisfaction and employment surveys, implemented standard lesson plans and designed an online manual for Lead Teachers. Ms. Otero has a MAT in TESOL and Bilingual Education from Georgetown University.

## Support Staff

### **NICOLE BRAVO: SIA 2.0 PROJECT MANAGER**

*Professional Learning Team, Student Achievement Partners*

Nicole Bravo is a Program Manager at Student Achievement Partners (SAP), where she oversees all the work of the organization. She has worked with districts and states across the country and national organizations like the Council of Chief State School Officers. Ms. Bravo has contributed to projects with goals such as aligning curriculum to college- and career-ready standards, introducing content-aligned observation tools to districts and states, and building content knowledge with educators. For StandardsWork, Ms. Bravo managed the convention on Cultivating Excellence in English Learner Instruction (CEELI), which brought together organizations and districts for two days of learning. Ms. Bravo also oversaw the production of 1,700 PowerPoint decks for a Detroit Public Schools' project that assisted K–8 educators in teaching EL Education. In that capacity, she managed 60 consultants that worked together to complete this project in eight months. Ms. Bravo has a BA in International Relations from the University of LaVerne and an MA in International Relations from Claremont Graduate University.

### **JANE ROY: LEAD ENGLISH LEARNER COACH**

*Educational Consultant for Adult Education*

Jane Roy is the EL content lead for the SIA 2.0 initiative. She has worked as an educational consultant on standards-based education since 2011, providing expert consulting services to OCTAE on several national initiatives. She recently provided content expertise and development support for the Preparing Adult English Language Learners for Challenging State-Adopted Content Standards project, 2015-2018. While working on the project, Ms. Roy participated in the process that resulted in the identification of the ELP Standards for Adult Education (2016). Ms. Roy has created professional development materials designed to promote and explain the ELP standards and how to begin using them. Ms. Roy has supported numerous states in their efforts to implement standards-based instruction. Ms. Roy's educational experience includes teaching, program management, curriculum development and teacher training and support in ESL — both in the US and overseas. More recently, Ms. Roy directed the Intensive ESL Program at South Dakota State University and taught online courses for South Dakota's K-12 ESL certification program. Ms. Roy previously worked with the National Institute for Literacy and the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, DC. She has also developed English proficiency assessment tests and facilitated professional development workshops for state and national initiatives. Ms. Roy holds a MAT in ESL from Georgetown University.

### **SUSAN PIMENTEL: SIA 2.0 PROJECT DIRECTOR**

*Co-Founder, StandardsWork Inc. and Student Achievement Partners*

Susan Pimentel has led the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education's (OCTAE's) standards-based reform and program improvement initiatives for the past 15 years. She has been the principal consultant, developer and trainer for OCTAE's multi-year, continuing Standards-in-Action (SIA) initiative since 2011. The SIA initiative — and the many professional development resources it has developed — focuses on assisting states in implementing their high-quality state-adopted content standards. Ms. Pimentel has provided extensive training to advance standards-based educational reforms, strengthen instruction and enhance learner outcomes. Her work includes forging a stronger link between adult education, postsecondary education and the working world. Ms. Pimentel served as lead writer of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts and Literacy (ELA/Literacy). Soon after, Ms. Pimentel joined the Understanding Language Project at Stanford University, dedicated to ensuring ELs have full access to rigorous academic instruction. In that capacity, she co-authored an influential paper, *Realizing Opportunities for English Learners in the Common Core English Language Arts and Disciplinary Literacy Standards*. She also facilitated the expert team that created the English Language Proficiency (ELP) Development Framework, which assists states with their development of ELP standards. From 2007 to 2015, Ms. Pimentel served on the National Assessment Governing Board, an independent, bipartisan board that sets policy for the national assessment. She became vice-chair of the body in November 2012. Ms. Pimentel holds a BS in Early Childhood Education and a JD from Cornell University.