

# KARA BLAKEY

VALUES-DRIVEN EDUCATOR WITH OVER 10 YEARS OF CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, LEADERSHIP, AND TRAINING EXPERIENCE



## CONTACT

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Carbondale, Colorado

## ADDITIONAL EXPERTISE

- 21st Century Skills Development
- Coaching & Mentorship
- Competency-Based Learning
- Adult Learning Theory
- Curriculum Design
- Human Centered-Design
- Leadership & Training
- Educational Content Writing & Publication
- Instructional Design
- Immersive Learning
- Generative AI
- Authoring tools & multimedia software

## REFERENCES

### Tara Laughlin

Senior Education Designer

tlaughlin@eddesignlab.org

### Jan Sikorsky

VP Product Innovation

jsikorsky@envisionexperience.com

### Allison Grenney

VP Customer Success

agrenney@pairin.com

## TRAINING & EDUCATIONAL DESIGN EXPERIENCE

### Educational Content Designer & Consultant

2020-2024

*Worldstrides | Contract*

Effectively utilized subject matter expertise in social emotional learning (SEL) & college and career readiness to develop equity-based educational content for diverse student and adult populations.

- Develop and design comprehensive, competency-based learning experiences to enhance the My Journey catalog including the **creation of 20+ web-based modules centered around academic success, college readiness and career development**
- **Research 21st-century skills, career trends and emerging technologies such as generative AI and ChatGPT, curate diverse content**, and author engaging learning outcomes for enhanced user experience
- **Coordinate and manage multiple curricular projects** tracking workflows coordinating with staff, contractors, and other stakeholders to ensure the successful execution projects

### Instructional Designer

2021-2023

*Education Design Lab | Contract*

In support of the XCredit initiative, **designed and built over 40 immersive, competency-based extended reality assessments measuring critical 21st-century skills in adults**, aligned to Education Design Lab's competency framework

- **Engaged in rapid, iterative cycles** with team members and subject matter experts to improve assessment prototypes while meeting tight deadlines and communicating project goals
- **Authored complex, branching assessment scripts** with multiple storylines, aligned to targeted criteria
- **Established, oversaw, and effectively conveyed project objectives, schedules, and progress** to both internal teams and clients

### SEL Curriculum Trainer

2018-2021

*PAIRIN | Contract*

**Trained teachers, administrators, and superintendents on the successful implementation of 50+ competency-based immersive learning modules ensuring smooth transition of content into their daily routines in both in-person and virtual settings.**

- **Developed and facilitated comprehensive trainings for educators and organizational leaders** ensuring smooth transition of content into their daily routines
- **Delivered PAIRIN's competency 21st-century skills curriculum** to diverse organizations nationwide **in both remote and in-person settings**
- **Incorporated adult learning theory**, focusing on creating effective learning experiences tailored to the unique needs of adult learners in both corporate and academic settings
- **Provided ongoing support to stakeholders** post-training to ensure implementation success

### SEL Competency-Based Curriculum Developer

2016-2021

*PAIRIN | Contract*

**Developed 50+ competency-based immersive learning modules, facilitator guides, independent and guided practice activities, as well as rubrics and performance assessments, all centered around the cultivation of social-emotional learning (SEL) skills.**

- **Collaborated on iterative cycles** with team members to enhance effectiveness of materials
- **Utilized learning software** such as articulate and storyline to bring modules to life

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## TEACHING EXPERTISE

- Common Core Literacy Standards
- HGT Curriculum Design
- Langue Arts Curriculum Design Grades 6-12
- Classroom Management
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Anit-Racist curriculum development
- Personalized Learning
- Metacognitive Coaching
- MTSS
- Differentiated Learning
- Assessment Creation & Analysis
- Rubric Articulation
- English Language Acquisition

## EDUCATION

M.Ed

### Counseling & Career Development

Colorado State University

### Bachelor's Degree

Secondary Education, English

DePaul University

## TEACHING REFERENCES

### Hillary Neibauer

Instructional Superintendent DPS  
hillary\_neibauer@dpsk12.net

### Alison Doyle

Assistant Principal DPS  
alison\_doyle@dpsk12.net

### Matthew Lunger

Dean of Culture DPS  
matthew\_lunger@dpsk12.net

## CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE

### School Culture Co-Leader

2021-2022

*Morey Middle School*

Fostered a positive and inclusive learning environment by promoting values, behaviors, and practices that enhance collaboration, respect, and academic excellence within the school community.

- Assisted in organizing professional development opportunities for staff and led PD days
- Facilitated team-building activities to foster staff rapport, uniting members who may not have otherwise worked closely together
- Promoted open communication channels by creating a supportive work environment
- Mentored new hires for the 2021-2022 school year
- Integral member of the hiring committee

### 6th Grade Team Lead

2015-2022

*Denver Public Schools, Poudre School District*

Responsible for orchestrating collaborative teaching efforts across the 6th-grade team, while concurrently guiding the implementation of grade-level policies and supporting colleagues to optimize student learning experiences.

- Worked with administration to enhance student learning experiences through innovative teaching methods identifying and addressing challenges that may impact student success
- Co-facilitated meetings with the Dean of Instruction related to multi-tiered systems of support for students ensuring effective communication and coordination of efforts within the 6th grade team

### Field Trip Coordinator

2012-2018; 2021-2022

*Morey Middle School, Kinard Middle School*

Planned, and executing experiential, educational outings and excursions for students grades 6-8, ensuring logistical arrangements, safety protocols, and educational objectives are seamlessly integrated to provide enriching and memorable learning experiences outside the traditional classroom setting.

- Assisted in organizing a Green Leadership student trip, coordinating the travel of 18 students to the Catalina Environmental Leadership Program on Catalina Island involving managing out-of-state travel, overnight accommodations, medication delegation, and developing the curriculum and itinerary.
- Organized, scheduled, and coordinated quarterly and week-long field trips for groups of over 200 6th-grade students, aligning closely with grade-level curriculum and visiting various institutions around the Denver area.

### Secondary Language Arts & Humanities Teacher

2012-2022

*Denver Public Schools, Poudre School District*

Successfully facilitated a rigorous, standards-based curriculum to secondary students guided by collaboratively created competency rubrics articulated across grade levels and closely aligned to common core standards

- Tracked, analyzed and reported on efficacy of instruction through needs assessment and feedback loops with students, teachers, and parents to ensure course success
- Facilitated project based, personalized learning curricular units for 90+ HGT & traditional students
- Specifically sought out by special education teachers to serve as the primary language arts instructor for students with individualized education plans (IEPs) and effectively differentiated instruction to accommodate their needs
- Recognized as a Highly Effective Teacher from 2016 to 2022 and voted Teacher of the Year in 2021 by staff and students