

### **President**



Leah Juelke is the 2018 North Dakota Teacher of the Year. She teaches refugee and immigrant EL students at Fargo South High School in Fargo, North Dakota. She also coaches student congress and is the head coach for debate. Leah holds a bachelor's degree in English Education, certification in middle school teaching and certification in teaching English Learners. She received her master's degree in curriculum and instruction from North Dakota State University and is currently pursuing a doctorate in Educational Leadership. Leah has traveled to over 27 countries and has taught in Taiwan, China, Tanzania, Costa Rica and Ecuador. She is an Army veteran and served as a medic in the Minnesota National Guard. Leah's most recent accolades include being named a 2020 NEA Global Fellow, a 2019 Horace Mann Awardee, a 2019 NEA Award for Teaching Excellence winner and the 2019 NDSU Horizon Alumni Awardee. Leah enjoys playing volleyball and spending time with her young son and daughter.

### **Adult Education Representative**



Brooke Sandoval received her Masters in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) from Moorhead State University Moorhead and her Bachelor's in Spanish Education with a minor in Communications from Concordia College. She has experience as an EL teacher within the Fargo Public Schools, as well as at NDSU. She has worked as a middle and high school Spanish teacher in Detroit Lakes and Moorhead, Minnesota. Brooke also has experience as an adjunct professor of Spanish at MSUM. Currently, she is teaching Spanish at Valley City State University. Brooke also works as a Spanish interpreter for the court system. In her free time, she enjoys teaching Zumba and spending time with her two small children.

### **Secretary**



Kit Anderson grew up in Moorhead, Minnesota and received her bachelor's degree in Communications from MSUM and Bilingual Spanish and ESL certifications from California State University Long Beach. She earned her master's degree in PreK-12 Education from Bridgewater State College. Kit taught at an elementary school in California and English in Mexico and Ecuador. She came back to the Fargo-Moorhead area in 2012 and took an EL position within the West Fargo School District. More recently, she worked as an elementary EL teacher and Bilingual Spanish Immersion teacher for Moorhead Public Schools. In her spare time, Kit enjoys meeting people from around the nation through her work with Rodan+ Fields. She also loves spending time with her Ecuadorian husband and their four children.

### **Elementary Education Representative**



Erica Boomsma is the 2019 South Dakota Teacher of the Year and teaches 4th grade students in the Huron School District, where a large portion of the population are English Learner students. Passionate and driven to teach from a young age, she was inspired by excellent teachers. For 18 years, she has had the honor of empowering all students to become lifelong learners and to strive for their dreams. With Bachelors and Masters degrees in education, Boomsma's greatest joy and accomplishment is found in her students' enthusiasm to learn and their success as they achieve things they never thought they could all while learning as a "family". Erica Boomsma loves her profession and even more, the students she teaches. She believes that every child regardless of race, gender, creed, or socio-economic status can learn.

### **High School Representative**



Dakota Breen received her Masters of Education in English Learner Education from the University of North Dakota (UND) in 2015. She also received her Bachelors of Arts in English Education with a minor in Spanish and an EL certification in 2011 from UND. She is currently working on her National Board for Professional Teaching in Secondary EL. Dakota is in her 8<sup>th</sup> year of teaching EL Language Arts at West Fargo High School (WFHS) in North Dakota. Dakota also assumes the role of EL building level representative for WFHS in which she assesses, registers, and schedules English Learners as well as any state mandated testing of English Learners. In the spring of 2019, the staff at West Fargo High School voted Dakota as the WFHS Teacher of the Year. Besides having a passion for teaching English Learners, Dakota also works extensively within her district and school with using technology in the classroom. In her free time, she enjoys reading books, gardening, hanging out with friends, and

spending time with her son, Nevada.