

SARAH BLAKELOCK, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, CONROE ISD



Sarah Blakelock currently serves as the Director of Communications for Conroe Independent School District. She began her career with Conroe ISD in 2010 when she was hired as the Early Childhood Specialist for the Curriculum and Instruction Department. During her time in Conroe ISD, she has also served as the Gifted Programs Specialist.

Mrs. Blakelock began her career in education in 2002 as a kindergarten teacher for Lubbock ISD followed by Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia. During this time, she earned her National Board Certification as an early childhood generalist. Upon leaving the classroom, Mrs. Blakelock was an education policy analyst for the Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C.

In addition to serving in CISD, Mrs. Blakelock is a graduate of Leadership Montgomery County Class of 2016 and serves as a board member. She is also a member of the Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce, Executive Women's Alliance, Texas School Public Relations Association, and National School Public Relations Association. Mrs. Blakelock also served on the Montgomery County Community Foundation Distribution Committee for three years.

Mrs. Blakelock received her bachelor's degree from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma; her master's in education policy from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.; and is currently working on her doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies from the University of Houston.

Mrs. Blakelock's husband, Matt, is captain of the Conroe ISD Police Department. Together, they have a son, Beckett.



JULIE AMBLER, HEAD OF SCHOOL, THE WOODLANDS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



Julie H. Ambler has been the Head of School at The Woodlands Christian Academy since 2006. Under her direction, Woodlands Christian is becoming a national leader in Christ-centered college preparatory education serving students in grades Pre-K4 through 12th grade. Previously, she served on the school's Executive Board for four years.

Mrs. Ambler currently serves as Chairman of the board for Summit Ministries, located in Manitou Springs, Colorado, Chairman of the board for The Woodlands Area Chamber of Commerce, Vice Chairman of the board for the Council of Educational Standards and Accountability (CESA), based in Atlanta, Georgia, and Past Chairman of the board and board member for Leadership Montgomery County (LMC). Additionally, she is a member and past board member of the Rotary Club of The Woodlands, where she has been named a Paul Harris Fellow. Mrs. Ambler is also past President of the Executive Women's Alliance (EWA).

She received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Leadership Montgomery County in 2012 and was named a Woman of Distinction by the Montgomery County Women's Council of Organizations in 2014 and 2017. Interfaith of The Woodlands named The Woodlands Christian Academy the corporate Hometown Hero of The Woodlands for 2017.

A graduate of The Hockaday School in Dallas, Mrs. Ambler holds a B.A. and an M.B.A. from The University of Texas at Austin. For seventeen years, she worked as a real estate investment banker in Houston, Texas, and Los Angeles, California, where she financed major commercial real estate transactions nationwide. She is married to Price Ambler, a member of The Crossing Church, and the mother of two adult children, Julia and J.P., both of whom are graduates of The Woodlands Christian Academy.



HEATHER WILLIAMS, ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PROBATION, MONTGOMERY COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT



Heather Williams has been employed with the Montgomery County Juvenile Probation Department since October 1999. She became a Juvenile Probation Officer in 2004 after graduating from Sam Houston State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice. In 2008, Heather was promoted to HR Supervisor and Training Coordinator for the Juvenile Department. During the next few years, she assisted in the selection of new employees. Her efforts were focused on ensuring new employees obtained the necessary certifications and training to oversee the Juveniles in the care of the Department. In January 2011, Heather was promoted to Assistant Deputy Director of Probation and began serving as the Drug Court Coordinator. She continues to serve in that capacity today.

MIKE KRALL, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT, LONE STAR COLLEGE-MONTGOMERY



Mike Krall has over 25 years of experience in higher education. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering from Texas A&M University and a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology. His career background includes working for Texas Instruments and Baker Hughes as a microcontroller and digital signal processor applications engineer. In higher education, Mike has served as Professor of Engineering, founding the Lone Star College-Montgomery engineering program and acting as department chair of physical sciences. He served as dean at two Lone Star College locations over math, sciences, and health professions, leading faculty and staff in their efforts to educate over 8,000 student enrollments per semester.

Mike has introduced processes to improve operational efficiency and to increase evidence-based decision-making. Mike has led Lone Star College academics system wide as Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs. In that role, he took on leadership of accreditation and Houston Guided Pathways to Success efforts at Lone Star College, especially working to improve success in developmental education and facilitating student transfer to universities.

Mike now serves as Special Assistant to the President at Lone Star College – Montgomery, providing leadership across the college, with special focus on the acquisition and use of data in all aspects of college operations. In the course of his career, Mike has led teams who have been awarded three multi-million-dollar Department of Education grants to address needs such as STEM education, outreach to traditionally underrepresented student groups, and establishment of new facilities to address educational needs.

In his personal time, Mike enjoys his family and volunteer work as a Catholic deacon.

DR. DE'REESE REID-HART, VICE PRESIDENT OF INSTRUCTION, LONE STAR COLLEGE-MONTGOMERY



Dr. De' Reese Reid-Hart has worked in the field of higher education for over 20 years and currently serves as the Vice-President of Instruction at Lone Star College – Montgomery. She previously served as Chief Student Affairs Officer, Dean of Instruction, Associate Dean of Students, and Assistant Dean of Students. She currently serves on the Board for Education for Tomorrow's Alliance (EFTA) and also graduated from LMC In 2018 - (#Best Class Ever).

Dr. Reid-Hart is a champion for providing students unfettered access to higher education with a specific focus on first generation, under-represented students. She sincerely believes that education is the key to solve the majority of issues that exist in our society today.

Through her varied experiences, she has developed expertise in the areas of assessment, budget management, curriculum and instruction, enrollment management, recruitment and retention, student engagement, and organizational change. Some of her achievements include creating programs that yielded her institution winning the National Aspen Award, increasing enrollment by 400%; increasing student completion rate by 16%, implementing an Advising and Registration Model that yielded a 73% increase in student satisfaction, published poetry that made Essence magazine bestseller list.

Dr. Reid-Hart completed her bachelor & master's degree from Eastern Illinois University and earned her Doctorate degree in Educational Leadership from National Louis University in Chicago, Illinois.

She is married with three children and enjoys spending time with her family, writing, sewing, and traveling in her spare time.

DR. CURTIS NULL, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, CONROE ISD



Dr. Curtis Null became Superintendent of Schools in June of 2018. He has 21 years in education, serving 19 of those years in Conroe ISD.

Dr. Null earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Houston in 1998. Upon completion of his undergraduate degree, he attended the University of Florida and earned a master's degree in 2000 with an emphasis in Sports Medicine while working directly with the Florida Gator football team. In 2000, Dr. Null began his career in Conroe ISD at The Woodlands High School where he served as a teacher and athletic trainer for three years. During this time, he continued his education at Sam Houston State University earning his principal certification. In 2006, Dr. Null was named principal of Peet Junior High.

In 2010, he was named principal of Conroe High School. That same year, he also completed his superintendent certification at Sam Houston State University. Dr. Null earned his doctorate degree in professional leadership from the University of Houston in 2012. In December of 2013, Dr. Null was named Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education. He became the Deputy Superintendent of Schools in January of 2016.

Under Dr. Null's leadership, Conroe ISD has continued to receive the highest rating from Texas Smart Schools, formerly known as the FAST report, for high academic achievement while maintaining cost-effective operations. Conroe ISD is one of only two districts in the State to receive this recognition for 11 consecutive years. The District has also received the highest recognition for transparency from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts for nine years in a row. According to the Education Resource Group, Conroe ISD is 2nd out of the 200 largest school districts in Texas for academic and financial performance. The District was also named by Forbes as one of the top 200 employers in Texas and has one of the lowest tax rates in the Houston metropolitan area. In 2020, Conroe ISD was recognized The Rotary Club of The Woodlands with a Community Hero Award.

In addition to his District responsibilities as superintendent, Dr. Null volunteers on numerous educational and civic boards and committees, including the Junior Achievement Board of Southeast Texas, the Montgomery County Food Bank Board of Directors, the Montgomery County Public Health District Board, the Conroe/Lake Conroe Area Chamber of Commerce, The Woodlands Area Chamber of Commerce, the Conroe Economic Development Council, the Education for Tomorrow Alliance, and CASA of Montgomery County. Dr. Null is a graduate of the Leadership Montgomery County class of 2015, and, in 2020, was named Texas Counseling Association Layperson of the Year. In 2021, he received Leadership Montgomery County's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Dr. Null is married to Tanya, who teaches prekindergarten in CISD. They are members of First United Methodist Church in Conroe. Together they have two children, Travis and Kailey, who are both graduates of Conroe ISD.



DR. TODD STEPHENS, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, MAGNOLIA ISD



Dr. Todd Stephens currently serves as the Superintendent of the Magnolia Independent School District. He has 39 years of experience in education, serving 22 of those years in Magnolia ISD.

Dr. Stephens grew up in Temple, Texas, and was a product of the Temple Independent School District. Upon graduation from Temple High School, he attended Abilene Christian University where he earned a BS in Education.

He continued his education and earned a Master of Education Degree from Tarleton State University (TSU) in 1997. While at TSU, he served as a member of the initial cohort group of the New Century Educational Leadership Program (NCELP) at Tarleton State University.

In 2007, he received a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Prairie View A&M University. During his post-graduate studies at Prairie View, he was a member of the first doctoral cohort in educational leadership at Prairie View A&M University.

Dr. Stephens and his wife, Becky, live in Magnolia and have been married since 1981. They attend Woodland Oaks Church of Christ. Becky is a kindergarten teacher at Bear Branch Elementary School. They have two children, Sam (graduate of Sam Houston State University) and Holly (graduate of Texas Tech University).

DR. HEATH MORRISON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, MONTGOMERY ISD



At each stage of his career, Dr. Heath Morrison has been described as "a teacher on special assignment." Dr. Morrison began as a social studies teacher in Virginia and Maryland and quickly moved into administration. After serving as principal at the middle school and high school levels, Dr. Morrison was selected as Maryland Principal of the Year in 2004.

He went on to serve as a Community Superintendent in Montgomery County, Maryland, before being selected to serve as Superintendent of Washoe County School District in Reno, Nevada. He has most recently served as Superintendent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in Charlotte, North Carolina. In 2011, Dr. Morrison was named Nevada Superintendent of the Year, and in 2012, he

became AASA's National Superintendent of the Year.

Under his leadership, all school districts saw rapid gains in state test scores, graduation rates, and participation and performance in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses. He has led efforts to promote personalized plans of instruction for every student and utilize technologies to inspire innovative teaching and learning. At the local, state and national level, he has actively championed the importance of teachers and principals.

For the last several years, Dr. Morrison has served in the private sector, first as the Senior Vice-President of Government Affairs at McGraw- Hill Education, before his promotion to President of the School Group. He holds a Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Planning and a Masters in Educational Administration from the University of Maryland. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in government from the College of William and Mary. Dr. Morrison is a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network and serves on the College of William and Mary Development Board.

Family is foremost to Dr. Morrison. He married his high school sweetheart, Jennifer, and they have two children, Samantha and Zachary, and a foster daughter, NaShara.



MR. MATT CALVERT, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, NEW CANEY ISD



The New Caney ISD Board of Trustees unanimously voted to approve the hiring of Matt Calvert as superintendent of schools, April 6, 2021. Mr. Calvert has served New Caney ISD since 2015 in the roles of deputy superintendent and executive director of finance.

Mr. Calvert began his career in 2004 as a science teacher and coach and later served as an elementary assistant principal, elementary lead principal, and assistant superintendent of business and financial services before coming to New Caney ISD.

Calvert has played an integral role in managing New Caney ISD's fast enrollment growth and leading the district's long-term strategic planning and capital improvement processes. Under his leadership of the business office, the district adopted balanced budgets, improved the district's credit rating, and completed multiple bond refunding processes. He has also provided guidance to executive directors in the areas of finance, human resources, student services, instruction, operations, athletics, and public relations.

Calvert graduated from East Texas Baptist University with a bachelor's degree in business administration, and he earned a master's in educational administration from Stephen F. Austin State University. Calvert and his wife, Molly, have lived in the school district since their arrival in 2015. They have two children, Canon and Maggie, who attend New Caney ISD schools.

DR. JEFF BURKE, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, SPLENDORA ISD



The Splendorra Independent School District Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Jeff Burke as Superintendent of Schools in January of 2017. Previously, Dr. Burke was the assistant superintendent of academics in Georgetown ISD in Georgetown, TX for two years, was the Executive Director of Professional Learning and Student Engagement in Alvin ISD and was the High School Principal in Anderson-Shiro CISD in 2010.

Born in Orange, Texas, Dr. Burke graduated from Hardin Jefferson High School and attended Houston Baptist University and Lamar University before starting his teaching career in 1995 at Little Cypress-Mauriceville CISD.

Dr. Burke received his doctorate in educational leadership from Texas A&M University in 2015. Currently, Dr. Burke serves at the state level as a member of the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) Legislative committee, is on the board of the Texas Association of Mid-Size Schools and is a member of the design teams for both the Texas Public Accountability Consortium and the Future Ready Superintendents Leadership Network. He is also a local member of the East Montgomery County Rotary and serves on the board of the Greater East Montgomery County Chamber, where he is chair-elect.

Dr. Burke began his career in public education in 1996 and is focused on creating and facilitating systems that focus on student engagement through positive relationships and the design of meaningful learning experiences. As the child of two public school educators, Dr. Burke holds true to the belief that public schools are the foundation of our democracy, and that it is our responsibility to look beyond state test scores to the talents, hopes, and dreams of every child. He is honored to serve Splendorra ISD as Superintendent of Schools.

He and his wife, Kim, have two children: their daughter Tylee, who attends Timber Lakes Elementary, and son Beckett, a future Wildcat.



DR. TIM HARKRIDER, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, WILLIS ISD



Tim Harkrider, Ed.D., is in his 9th year as Superintendent of Willis ISD and his 21st year in education. Dr. Harkrider was Principal of Willis High School for one year before being named head of schools. Prior to joining Willis ISD, Dr. Harkrider was a classroom teacher, coach and administrator for eleven years in Grand Prairie ISD and White Settlement ISD, among others in the East Texas area.

Dr. Harkrider has won multiple awards for his work in education. Most recently he was named the 2019-20 Empowered Superintendent by the K-12 Chief Technology Officer Council for his work to advance meaningful use of technology in classrooms. In 2018, he was named the Region 6 Superintendent of the Year in the Texas Association of School Boards Annual Program and was one of five finalists in the state competition.

Under Dr. Harkrider's leadership, Willis ISD has seen an improvement in student performance and innovation, staff wellness, technology access, facilities improvement and financial stability.

Dr. Harkrider, hailing from the small town of Carthage, Texas, originally attended The University of Texas at Austin on a baseball scholarship. After playing there for three years, he spent four years in the minors with the Anaheim Angels. The trajectory of his future was changed by a career-ending ankle injury that prevented him from advancing to the major leagues.

He holds a Bachelor of Science from Stephen F. Austin State University, a Master of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies with Principal Certification from The University of Texas at Arlington, Superintendent Certification from Lamar University, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Sam Houston State University.

Dr. Harkrider and his wife, Toni, have three children - Dylan, 23; Reece, 19; and Meredith, 12.

KELLY LOCKE, DIRECTOR OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING, WILLIS ISD



Kelly is currently the Director of Guidance and Counseling for Willis ISD.

Kelly began her career in education as a Special Education teacher in Klein ISD in 2005. While teaching in Klein, Kelly went back to school and earned her Master of Education degree in Educational Leadership and Counseling. After three years in the classroom Kelly accepted a position as a high school counselor in Willis ISD. Upon graduating with her master's degree, Kelly completed a 3,000-hour internship and became a Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Texas as well as a Board Certified National Counselor. Kelly worked in Willis ISD for 6 years as a high school and middle school counselor before moving to Conroe ISD in 2014. Kelly was the campus counselor at Wilkinson Elementary from 2014 – 2018. During her time at Wilkinson, Kelly began presenting around the district in one her specialty areas, anxiety. In the summer of 2018 Kelly became the first LPC/Mental Health Specialist for Conroe ISD. As the Mental Health Specialist Kelly provided mental health education for parents, students, staff and community members, built community partnerships and provided mental health consultation for all 65 Conroe ISD campuses. Kelly also became a Certified Clinical Trauma Professional and began the certification process to become a Certified Prevention Specialist for substance use. In 2021 Kelly was able to return, not only to the district where she 1st became a Professional School Counselor, but also to her alma mater, Willis ISD.

As Director of Guidance and Counseling Kelly oversees Campus Counselors, Social and Emotional Learning, Substance Use Prevention, Human Trafficking Prevention and Mental Health.

MATT BLAKELOCK, CAPTAIN, CONROE ISD POLICE DEPARTMENT



Matthew Blakelock is a native Texan who has served as a public servant in law enforcement in Montgomery County since 1995 with the last 20 years at the Conroe Independent School District Police Department. He was promoted to captain in September of 2018 after serving the District as an officer, corporal, and for the past 18 years as a sergeant responsible for supervision of every school feeder zone, the Communications Division, Investigations, S.W.A.T. Command, and most recently Administrative Operations of the Police Department. He holds a Master Peace Officer Certification, Law Enforcement Instructor License, a School Based Law Enforcement Instructor License, as well as instructor certifications in Defensive Tactics and Use of Force, Crisis Intervention, ALERRT Active Shooter Response for Law Enforcement, and various other law enforcement subjects. Matthew is married to Sarah Blakelock, and they live in Conroe, Texas. Matthew and Sarah have a son, Beckett, and are proud to call Conroe ISD their home.

Matthew worked full time at the Conroe Independent School District Police Department as he attended the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMITE) Leadership Command College (LCC). This program is designed for Texas law enforcement executive development. Matthew attended all three modules and completed his administrative research paper within two years and proudly graduated in 2001 as part of LCC Class #39. In May 2012 Matthew earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Sam Houston State University. He then went on to earn his Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice Leadership and Management from Sam Houston State University in August 2016.

He currently serves the District and Department as a Captain responsible for personnel scheduling, policy writing and implementation, fleet and evidence management, Communications supervision, as well as Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Training Coordinator, an executive member of the Montgomery County Special Threat Response Plan Group, a member of the Conroe Independent School District Safety Committee, and Treasurer for the Conroe ISD Police Activity League. Matthew is a graduate of Leadership Montgomery County Class of 2021. In February 2022, Matthew was named as the next Chief of Police for the Conroe ISD Police Department.

DARRIN RICE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, CONROE ISD



Darrin Rice is a graduate of the LMC Class of 2018. He is the Conroe ISD Chief Financial Officer with 30 years of experience in school finance.

DENISE MEYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, MAGNOLIA ISD



Denise Meyers is currently the Executive Director of Communications and has been for Magnolia ISD since 2014. Her responsibilities include public and media relations, marketing, special events, public information officer, and liaison to the Magnolia Education Foundation. She has worked in education for 20 years.

She previously worked in marketing for higher education including the University of Denver Daniels College of Business and Lone Star College Montgomery where she received several honors including the 2014 Heights of Excellence Award and the 2011 Staff Excellence Award. She is a graduate of Leadership Montgomery County class of 2016.

Denise holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas in Austin. She lives in The Woodlands with her husband, Craig, and their teenage daughter, Amanda. The family enjoys traveling and finding new outdoor adventures.