

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. In 2022, she was named a Woman of Distinction for Leadership Montgomery County. Mrs. Blakelock is 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. She 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 chief of the Conroe ISD Police Department. Together, they have a son, Beckett.



DR. CURTIS NULL, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, CONROE ISD



Dr. Curtis Null became Superintendent of Schools in June of 2018. He has 22 years in education, serving 20 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 12 consecutive years. The District has also received the highest recognition for transparency from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts for 10 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 for the third consecutive year. 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 2021, Conroe ISD was named a Top Workplace by the Houston Chronicle. Forbes named Conroe ISD as one of America's Best-in-State Employers for Texas in 2022.

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. 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 retired kindergarten teacher. 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.

DR. JEFF BURKE, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, SPLENDORA ISD



The Splendor ISD 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. In 2022, Dr. Burke was named the Region VI Superintendent of the Year. 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 Splendor 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., became Superintendent of Willis ISD in 2013. He 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, 24; Reece, 20; and Meredith, 13.

KELLY LOCKE, DIRECTOR OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING, WILLIS ISD

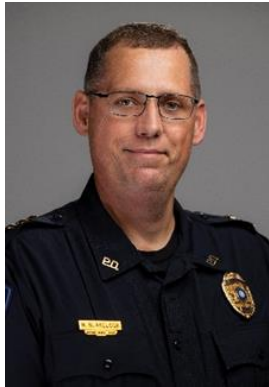


Kelly is currently the Director of Guidance and Counseling for Willis ISD.

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, CHIEF OF POLICE, 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 24 years at the Conroe Independent School District Police Department. Matthew currently serves as the Conroe I.S.D. Police Department Chief of Police. Prior to this, he was promoted to captain in September of 2018 after serving the District as an officer, corporal, and for the preceding 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, School Based Law Enforcement, and various other law enforcement subjects. Matthew, his wife Sarah, and their son Beckett Live in Conroe, Texas and are proud to call Montgomery County and Conroe I.S.D. 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.

Matthew Blakelock began serving Conroe I.S.D. as Chief of Police in June 2022 and in addition to his duties as chief, he serves as an executive member of the Montgomery County Special Threat Response Plan Group, a member of the Conroe Independent School District Safety Committee and is an active member of the Texas Police Chiefs Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

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 over 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.

AUDRA MAY, HEAD ADMINISTRATOR, LEGACY PREPARATORY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

I was born the oldest daughter in a family of four children. My mother and father were wonderful parents, both of whom love Jesus and demonstrated that on a daily basis. In all that we did and everywhere we went, we were always taught to live our faith and be doers of the word, not just hearers only. My parents lived this out as my father has been a deacon in his local church for over 30 years and my mother, the pastor's secretary.

I graduated from High School in a small town in Texas and went on to play basketball in college. I graduated from Texas A&M and married my husband, Brandon. In January 2014, we will have been married for 20 years. We have four awesome and incredibly handsome boys, Travis, Ryan, Jared, and David. We are avid Aggie fans and love anything that requires bats, gloves, helmets, or goals! Brandon and I will forever be in bleachers until the boys move on to college!

God called me to Legacy through my desire to spend more time with my oldest son who, at the time, was in PreK. After a visit to the local public school to see their Kindergarten classes, I knew I did not want to pursue that route. My next step was to investigate private schooling which I found to be a stretch financially for one, and out of the question for four children. As I began to explore other options, I was introduced to NAUMS (National Association of University Model Schools). After speaking with their director, I was sold on the model. I began talking with parents and drumming up support, never believing that I would someday be running a school. But, nearly ten years later, here I am. I count serving as Legacy's Head Administrator one of the most treasured privileges I've ever had. My Legacy community is really just an extension of my own family, and I am blessed to have so many people praying for and supporting me and my children.

One of the great things about Legacy, and the reason God gave me the vision to begin this school, was so that my children would know what they believe and why they believe it. Like their grandparents had taught me, our faith was to be lived out loud so that others would come to know Christ. I am so thankful for the additional time I have been given with my children because of the UMS model. Our motto is, "Here am I! Send me!" Isaiah 6:8. I want my children to be the hands and feet of Jesus as they stand firm in their faith and unashamedly proclaim the good news. I can't wait to see how God's plan unfolds for them and what adventures he has in store for their future.



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.

CHRIS MCCORD, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF OPERATIONS, CONROE ISD



Mr. Chris McCord serves as the Assistant Superintendent of Operations for Conroe I.S.D., approaching his third year in that role. He has 32 years in education and has served within Conroe I.S.D. for 24. In addition to serving as a principal for 19 years within Conroe I.S.D. at McCullough Junior High, he also served in multiple roles within both Humble and Fort Bend I.S.D.

In 1990, Mr. McCord earned his undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University followed later with his master's from Stephen F. Austin State University.

Mr. McCord was named outstanding principal for TASSP Region 6 in 2009 and enjoys helping the students, families, and community of Conroe I.S.D. in his current role of overseeing many facets of the District.

He is married to his wife Angie, a former Conroe I.S.D. educator. They have two children, Brock and Blair, who were both K-12 students and graduates of the Conroe Independent School District.