Quality Assurance Design Team Members

The initial Quality Assurance Design Team is composed of experts in higher education, credentialing, workforce, and quality assurance fields. The team members are designing, testing, and refining a framework, standards, and processes for reviewing and assuring the quality of short-term credential content provider organizations.

Laurie Dodge, Vice President of Quality Assurance and Accreditation for the Competency-Based Education Network has been a long-time leader in CBE. Prior to her career in higher education, Dr. Dodge served as a school psychologist in Indiana, West Virginia, and California. Laurie expanded her work in education by teaching courses at a nearby military base and fell in love with teaching adult learners. Dr. Dodge is a member of the NC-SARA Board of Directors and WASC Senior College Commission Substantive Change Committee and she has participated in countless national and international accreditation visits. Dr. Dodge was the inaugural Chair of the Board for C-BEN. Dr. Dodge received her doctoral degree in School Psychology from Ball State University.

Jonathan Furr joined Strada Education Foundation in June 2023 as senior vice president and its first chief data ecosystem officer. As chief data ecosystem officer, Furr leads initiatives focused on ensuring that students, educators, policymakers, employers, economic development leaders, and others have access to the data and insights they need to make informed choices about postsecondary education and training programs and continuously improve those programs as part of equitable pathways to opportunity. Before joining Strada, Furr founded and led Education Systems Center, or EdSystems, at Northern Illinois University. Furr developed the legal and governance structures for the Illinois Longitudinal Data System. Since its establishment in 2012, this system has focused attention toward policies that improve academic and career success.

Kelly Hoyland serves as the Director for Higher Education at 1EdTech where she works with members to meet the challenges they face in the rapidly growing and evolving digital teaching and learning landscape. This includes working across K-12, higher education, and corporate education to make life achievements more accessible, personalized, and equitable from the start for every learner. Ms. Hoyland began her career in K-12 education where she served in roles as teacher, virtual school coordinator, and technology director. She then transitioned to higher education as the Director of Learning & Client Technology Services at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Her focus has been to find ways to use technology to support teaching and learning.
Dr. J. Lee Johnson, an HLC Board of Trustees member, joined Mount Marty University in 2024 as their Innovation and Planning Strategist. Prior to this role he served as the Senior Vice President and Treasurer for Siena Heights University. Dr. Johnson received his Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration with a Minor in Law from the University of Toledo; an M.B.A. concentrating in economics from Bowling Green State University; and a B.S. in Business Administration majoring in Finance from The Ohio State University. He completed post-graduate education at Harvard University and The Ohio State University. A certified public accountant, he is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and both the Ohio and Michigan societies for certified public accountants.

Dave McCool is the President & CEO of Muzzy Lane. Muzzy Lane provides tools and content to support skills-based learning, assessment, and credentialing. SkillBuild (https://muzzylane.com/skillbuild) is its recently launched suite of self-directed active learning soft skills courses that lead to an industry-validated credential. Author (https://muzzylane.com/author) is the “no coding required” cloud based authoring tools that allows partners to create and deploy their own simulations and active learning courses.

Lana Whitehead spearheads transformative initiatives at Kent State University as the Assistant Vice President of Lifelong Learning, an entrepreneurial arm of the institution, driving the development and implementation of pioneering programs across the lifespan through professional and workforce education, micro-credentials, and pre-college programs. Ms. Whitehead is passionate about preparing learners to meet the demands of a skills-based economy by offering impactful learning opportunities that complement and extend beyond traditional degree pathways. Her extensive leadership experience across academic affairs, student affairs, and enrollment management enriches her approach to fostering an ecosystem of lifelong learning, ensuring that the university remains at the forefront of educational innovation and adaptation.

Kristi Wold-McCormick is the Assistant Vice Provost and University Registrar at the University of Colorado Boulder. She is primarily focused on student data privacy, business process improvement, academic policy, online education and campus data initiatives, diversity and inclusion, and academic record and enrollment innovation. Dr. Wold-McCormick is currently the president-elect on the AACRAO Board of Directors and will assume the presidency during the annual meeting in April 2024. Previously, Dr. Wold-McCormick was registrar of North Dakota State University for 12 years and has held positions in admissions and enrollment management. She earned a bachelor’s and master’s degrees from North Dakota State University and a Ph.D. from the University of North Dakota.