

# VALERIE JENNINGS

## Experience

---

Spring 2019 to Present

### Adjunct Professor, Avila University

I co-teach **Restorative Relationships/ Restorative Justice**: A course that focuses on the intersection of restorative relationships in the educational setting and the community and that emphasizes social justice issues related to children, families, and the community at large.

---

Blue Valley USD 229

Overland Park, KS

### Principal, Blue Valley Academy (*Retired August, 2018*)

- Blue Valley Academy is the Alternative High School Program for the Blue Valley School District, serving students from Blue Valley's 5 traditional high schools who are in need a more personalized and proactive experience. As Principal I was responsible for leadership and direction of the program. Additional responsibilities included overseeing the BVSC building facility
  - Successful Program design developed during my tenure included running a 4x4 schedule; training staff in Trauma Sensitive School and Restorative Discipline practices (both of which became fundamental components of the program); Fall and Spring all-school community service fieldtrips; weekly intervention team meetings to proactively address the needs of individual students; implementation of several weekly support groups; development of an art class that I taught daily
  - Other district responsibilities that were based on my passion and commitment to students included: Coordination of and placement of social work interns at the district high schools (as BV didn't hire social work staff until last year); coordination of Trauma Sensitive School Practices trainings for the BVSD; Coordination of Reconnecting Youth and CAST summer training for the BVSD; introduction of and vocal support of the district adopting Restorative Practices
- 

2008-2009

Blue Valley USD 229

### Blue Valley Academy Coordinator

- Duties included providing academic and personal counseling to students; Coordination and facilitation of the referral process/ assessing and reviewing student transcript and building schedules based on individual student needs; Communicating and collaborating with the 5 HS's counselors and administrators re: students; Working with and counseling w families re: their students needs; Coordinating w STEP-UP and other outreach programs that were supportive and available to our students; Building test coordinator
  - District duties included BV STEP-UP representative; Social Work Intern Coordinator; member of BVSD Crisis Response team
- 

2007-2008

Blue Valley USD 229

### Special Education Coordinator

- Facilitated and was team leader of district adopted SPED process and practice
- Duties included District Admin Coordinator for Speech Pathologists/ Middle and High School Learning Center teachers
- Supported and worked with teams that were at crossroads with families regarding SPED services/ IEP process
- Coordinated and re-vamped district Medicaid data-collection process give changes at federal and state levels

---

2005-2007

Blue Valley USD 229

**Blue Valley North Admin Intern**

- In the spring of 2005, the district established a new High School Administrative Intern program. As a pilot the 2005 school year, two positions were established. I was selected for one of the positions.
  - Duties: 11<sup>th</sup> grade Admin; Department Appraisals- SPED/ Art/ Foreign Language; Admin and counsel for classified office staff; 504 building coordinator; Admin of SPED Dept; Building Interventions Coordinator; Coordinator and Preceptor for Social Work Intern; Bldg Crisis Response Team Coordinator; United Way and other bldg. community service Coordinator; Mustang Ambassador Coordinator; Business Partner Collaborator
  - Revised the building ED program and revised the bldg. program for at risk youth  
Other: counsel w individual persons when they were having social/emotional issues whether it was staff/ parents/ students and helping them network and access community supports as needed
- 

1987-2004

Blue Valley USD 229

**School Psychologist**

Designed, coordinated, and co-facilitated all support groups; facilitated and team led problem solving process and SPED teaming; developed school-based At-Risk programs and participated in leading programs; Participation in Leadership teams at building and District levels; Provided individual and family counseling; Provided leadership on Crisis Team at building level and on the district team; Daily collaboration and teaming with building Admin re: legal/ family/staff/ student needs; BV District School Psych Chair/ Coordinator for 2 year term; Private school Coordinator; Provision of various in-services/ trainings for staff; Provided support and counsel to staff members re: personal issues/student needs/ etc.; SPED team leader re: assessment and reviews

---

1983-1987

Topeka, Kansas USD 501

School Psychologist at Capitol City, a special purpose school for ED, housed at Topeka State Hospital

Facilitated process for referrals to program; Completed evaluations; Facilitated team meetings; Member of Leadership teams/ both School and Hospital –based; Collaborated with hospital Clinical Psychologists/Psychiatrists re: student programming; Completed assessment for young adults on hospital units; School representative for USD 501 meetings re: Capitol City; Completed in-depth training in Federal Drug and Alcohol intervention/prevention program and was an active USD 501 district team member; Completed Group TX training and Family TX training through the Menninger Foundation

---

## Education

---

- 1979** - B.S. Education- Art/Psychology                      Emporia State University
- 1983** - Ed.S. School Psychology                                      University of Kansas
- 2004** - Building Admin/Leadership Licensure                      Pittsburg State University
- 2007** - Completed Blue Valley Leadership Academy

## District Involvement/ Projects

- Member of BV District Crisis Team FLIGHT Team/ Support Personnel
- Coordinator of BV District Traumatic Brain Injury Team
- Developer and Coordinator of BV District Social Work internship program
- Coordination of the BV District IFC/BVSD Truancy initiative
- FIEP facilitator- Facilitated process meeting at BV District level when there was dispute between family and school in IEP process

## Interests/ Beliefs

---

Professional Development in Adolescent Issues (specifically Restorative practices and Trauma Sensitive practices) Long Distance Running/ Bicycling/ Reading/ Art/ Travel/

Education has the purpose of creating life-long learners and must include components of teaching essential knowledge, cultural knowledge, and work related skills knowledge. This is best accomplished through, as John Dewey described it- “ *a deliberate conducted practice*”. Elliot Eisner, in his book, **The Educational Imagination** states, “ *The learning that is a reality for the child is that which s/he experiences and is determined by the quality of experiences the child has in school- the ones that make a difference in his or her life.*”

This I believe- we must use imagination to conceptualize and design goals and content that will have life long educational impact and which are designed for students to attain an understanding of how to live their lives with meaning and purpose.