

David J. Downs

802 South Fairview Road B8
Columbia, Missouri 65203
573.489.8471
jdowns@hallsville.org

Education

- August 1997 **Miami University** Oxford, Ohio
Master of Music in Music Education, GPA 3.96
- May 1994 **Kent State University** Kent, Ohio
Bachelor of Music in Music Education, *Cum Laude*, GPA 3.53

See also Additional Courses, below.

Relevant Experience

- July 2008– Present **Hallsville R-IV School District** Hallsville, Missouri
Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Full time district leadership position, working principally in the areas of faculty professional development, new teacher induction, curricular and instructional improvement, teacher coaching/mentoring, assessment, and data analysis.
- Fall 2002– Spring 2008 *Lead and Mentor Teacher*
Full time service in building instructional leadership role, working principally in the areas of faculty professional development, mentoring, pre-service teacher education, teaching, curriculum development, grant writing/administration, and data analysis.
- Fall 1997– Spring 2002 *Music Educator*
Full time music teacher for approximately 450 students (ten class sections per day). Enhanced and expanded music program: developed and implemented standards-based district music curriculum; established 55-member honor choir; expanded elementary music performance opportunities to 13 annual events. Budgeting and other administrative duties.
- Summer 2006– Present *Other professional opportunities at Hallsville*
Member, Hallsville R-IV Professional Learning Communities Leadership Team
- Spring 2001– Present Routine member of interview teams for various faculty openings and programs (e.g., faculty positions, Teaching Fellows, Senior Year On-Site, student interns)
- Fall 2002– Present District Representative, University of Missouri Partnership for Educational Renewal (MPER) Operations Council; Member, Hallsville R-IV Salary and Benefits Committee
- Fall 2001– Spring 2003 Senior Leader, Heart of Missouri Regional Professional Development Center (RPDC)/ Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) Class 8
- Fall 1999– Spring 2000 Chair, District instructional practices committee in preparation for state accreditation (MSIP) review
- Fall 1998– Spring 1999 Director, Title I after-school Academy program
Member, Hallsville Elementary School Reading Task Force

- Fall 2002–
Present **University of Missouri—Columbia** Columbia, Missouri
Clinical Associate Faculty
Lead instructor for *Inquiry into Schools, Communities, and Society* College of Education course for undergraduate and graduate students. Serve as mentor teacher to participants in the University of Missouri Partnership for Educational Renewal's (MPER) Teaching Fellowship Program. Facilitate *Classroom (Action) Research* course for university graduate credit. Coordinate and implement MPER's Senior Year On-Site Program within Hallsville R-IV School District. Serve as university supervisor to student teacher interns (an average of five per year) and coordinate all field placements (typically 30 per school year). *Please see the attached listing of other opportunities completed while in this position.*
- Spring and
Summer 2003 **Missouri Fine Arts Academy** Springfield, Missouri
Faculty
Collaboratively and independently planned, developed, and facilitated daily courses for Missouri high school students identified as gifted and talented in the fine arts: *Experiments* course on collaborative, improvisatory music composition within a chamber ensemble setting; *Interdisciplinary* course included experiential process-oriented activities integrating fine arts disciplines. Leader-participant in daily collaborative sessions producing an embedded professional development outreach event for Missouri educators of all disciplines. Conducted workshop in musical instrument design and construction.
- Fall 1995–
Summer 1997 **Miami University** Oxford, Ohio
Graduate Assistant
Served as guest lecturer on music education, composition, arranging, and technology topics for the following undergraduate courses: *Music Composition; Electronic Music; Instrumental Methods for Vocal Majors; Seminar Practicum in Music Education; Instrumental Music, Elementary and Secondary*. Served as instructor for the applied *Intermediate Electronic Music Composition* course. Accompanied pre-service teachers on field experiences and provided evaluative feedback on performance. Teaching Assistant for Electronic Music courses. Administered university's Music Recording Service, including personnel, equipment, and billing.
- Fall 1994–
Spring 1995 **Akron Public Schools** Akron, Ohio
Music Educator
Full time music teacher of middle school orchestra, band, and eleven sections of general music. Prepared individual students and chamber ensembles for Ohio Music Education Association Solo and Ensemble Contest and citywide honors ensembles.
- Spring 1994–
Winter 1995 **Bandettes Drum and Bugle Corps** Sault Sainte Marie, Ontario, Canada
Brass Caption Head
Rehearsed and chaperoned brass section of high school students in Division III drum and bugle corps. Directed corps in all monthly (October–May) and daily (June–August) rehearsals. Arranged and edited music. Assisted with on-field marching instruction.
- Fall 1991–
Spring 1994 **Kent State University Department of Residence Services** Kent, Ohio
Resident Assistant
Supervised, mentored, and counseled 60 undergraduate students and performed duty responsibilities in a residence hall of 450 students. Planned, organized, and implemented educational programming. Performed administrative duties. Extensive training and experience in crisis/conflict management.

Other Field and Volunteer Experience

- Fall 1996– **Talawanda Public Schools** Oxford, Ohio
Spring 1997 Twice weekly volunteer teacher with middle and high school bands
- Spring 1994 **Louisville Public Schools** Louisville, Ohio
Student teacher in instrumental music education
- Fall 1992 **St. Patrick Elementary School** Kent, Ohio
Third grade general music field experience
- Spring 1992 **Ravenna High School** Ravenna, Ohio
High school instrumental music field experience
- Spring 1989– **Chippewa Local Schools** Doylestown, Ohio
Fall 1990 Assisted with instruction of middle and high school instrumental students and bands.
Assisted with organization and implementation of county solo and ensemble contest.

Honors

- Fall 2002– **University of Missouri—Columbia** Columbia, Missouri
Present Selected as mentor teacher for Teaching Fellowship Program and Clinical Associate faculty appointment to the College of Education. Videotapes of ten music class sessions placed in university library for review by future pre-service elementary and secondary educators.
- Spring and **Missouri Teachers Academy** Springfield, Missouri
Summer 2002 Nominated by district administration and selected by competitive review to work with students in the Missouri Fine Arts Academy and simultaneously develop a model interdisciplinary professional development workshop with eleven other Missouri arts educators.
- Fall 2000– **Hallsville R-IV School District** Hallsville, Missouri
Spring 2002 Hosted more than 55 pre-service elementary educators and model innovative, standards-based music instruction for young children. Presented with the faculty Lighthouse Award twice, 2002, 2003.
- Fall 1995– **Miami University** Oxford, Ohio
Summer 1997 Graduate Assistantship
Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society
- Spring 1995 **Akron Public Schools** Akron, Ohio
Riedinger Middle School Principal's Award
- Fall 1989– **Kent State University** Kent, Ohio
Spring 1994 Golden Key National Honor Society
Department of Residence Services Outstanding Leadership Award, 1993, 1994
Department of Residence Services Outstanding Programming Award, 1994
College of Fine and Professional Arts Dean's List, seven of nine semesters
National Dean's List

Facilitations

- June 2007 **University of Missouri—Columbia** Columbia, Missouri
Facilitated roundtable discussions on teaching the Action Research course to university fellows and other faculty.
- December 2004 Facilitated roundtable discussions on conflict resolution for university supervisors of student teacher interns.
- August 2002 **Little Dixie Conference** Boone County, Missouri
Facilitated professional development workshop on integrating fine arts activities into regular classroom instruction.

Please see the attached listing for other facilitations completed while in the Lead Teacher position.

Grants

- Summer 2005 **Missouri Partnership for Educational Renewal Study Group Funding**
Secured \$1,000 competitive grant for implementation of faculty professional development opportunities to improve student achievement.
- Spring 2003–
Spring 2005 **Missouri Service–Learning (Federal Learn and Serve America Grant)**
Secured and administered \$16,100 in competitive grants for implementation of Service–Learning within Hallsville R-IV School District.

Professional Memberships

Missouri State Teachers Association, 1997–Present
Hallsville Community Teachers Association, 1997–1999, 2001–Present
Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society, 1997–Present
Missouri Music Educators Association (MENC), 1997–2006
Officer, *Delta Omicron* Music Honorary, 1991–1997
Ohio Music Education Association (MENC), 1989–1997
ARS NOVA, Kent State University Composers Forum, 1993

Research

Research paper, *The Effect of Imitative Pitch– and Interval–Matching Activities on the Instrumental Music Performance Proficiency of Sixth Graders*, was subjected to blind peer review and accepted for presentation at the 1997 Ohio Music Education Association Conference in Toledo, Ohio.

Certifications

Missouri Professional Career, valid through 2104

Additional Courses

University of Missouri—Columbia Columbia, Missouri

Art for Children
Reflections on Literacy
Classroom (Action) Research
Special Topics in Educational Leadership: Teachers and the Law
Foundations of Educational and Psychological Measurement
The Psychology and Education of Exceptional Individuals
Teaching Reading in the Content Areas

Missouri State University Springfield, Missouri
Interdisciplinary Strategies for the Elementary and Secondary Teacher

Miami University Oxford, Ohio
Applied Composition (five semesters)
Independent Study in Advanced Wind Ensemble Repertoire (two semesters)
Independent Study in Undergraduate Education Curriculum Analysis and Development
Independent Study in Educational Software Development
Applied Composition for Film and Television

Kent State University Kent, Ohio
Applied Trumpet Performance (two semesters)
Applied Voice Performance (two semesters)
Applied Composition (six semesters)
Applied Jazz Studies (one semester each of jazz composition, arranging, and improvisation)
Electronic Music Composition
Folk Guitar

Ensembles

Miami University
Oxford, Ohio

Trumpet Ensemble
Jazz Ensemble

Kent State University
Kent, Ohio

Marching Band
Symphony Band
University Band
Jazz Ensemble
Summer Symphony

Other
Ravenna, Ohio

Exaltation Brass

Commissions

I have produced a large number of commissioned arrangements for pedagogical use. In one especially successful collaboration, a co-arranger and I have completed more than forty musical works for advanced high school vocalists and instrumentalists. In competition, these arrangements have received high praise from judges.

These works were produced on commission for several school districts, including Unified School District of DePere (Wisconsin); School District of New London (Wisconsin); and San Francisco (California) Unified School District.

Interests and Skills

A strong communicator, I easily collaborate on projects; however, I am also self-directed and able to assess needs, identify potential solutions, and complete multiple projects independently. While I take a creative, open-minded approach to solving problems, I have the organizational skills required to attend to all details of a project. I have substantive knowledge of educational issues and best practice.

I have a profound interest and extensive experience with educational technology, including data analysis software (SPSS, ClearAccess, Crystal Reports); web content development (Dreamweaver, raw HTML/CSS coding); word processing and spreadsheet software (Microsoft Office); presentation software (Keynote, Powerpoint); desktop publishing (PageMaker, InDesign); image preparation (Photoshop); electronic music (including both MIDI and digital audio applications of all kinds); video/DVD production software; and organizational/planning software from a variety of vendors.

I also enjoy educational software development; music composition; recreational reading; writing; black and white photography; walking, hiking, biking, and exploring; and spending time with my family.

References

Letters of reference and contact information are available upon request.

Partial Classified Listing of Lead and Mentor Teacher Projects and Duties, Fall 2002–Present

Professional Development

Serve as mentor and instructional coach to new teachers.
Facilitated implementation of grade-level Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).
Serve on PLC Leadership Team and provide PLC training to other faculty members.
Coordinate opportunities for elementary faculty with RPDC and independent consultants.
Solicit and synthesize faculty feedback on professional development needs and opportunities.
Implemented half-day data-driven instructional improvement collaborations for PreK–4 faculty.
Wrote, secured, and administered MPER Study Group Funding professional development grants.
Implemented and facilitate Instruction and Assessment Team for newer faculty.
Facilitate best practice activities/training sessions at monthly faculty meetings.
Create and maintain professional development materials and outcome documents.

University of Missouri—Columbia, College of Education

Clinical Associate faculty appointments over the past six years.
Facilitate communications between College of Education, MU Partnership for Educational Renewal, university faculty and students, and Hallsville teachers and administration.
Serve as instructor/facilitator for Classroom (Action) Research graduate course.
Lead instructor for *Inquiry into Schools, Communities, and Society* university course for undergraduate and graduate students.
Serve as university supervisor for up to nine student teacher interns; facilitate bi-weekly seminars; conduct evaluative and formative observations; assign grades; assist host teachers.
Coordinate annual field placements of up to 30 university pre-service teachers, conduct observations, provide feedback, and evaluate final presentations.
Coordinate on-site and distance (using Polycom technology) classroom observations.
Evaluate Phase III intern portfolios for state certification recommendation.
Evaluate Phase I presentations for College of Education advance standing recommendation.

University of Missouri Partnership for Educational Renewal (MPER)

Serve as active member of Operations Council; attend annual retreats and quarterly meetings; serve on policy and procedural committees.
Primary developer and editor of *MPERspective* quarterly partnership newsletter.
Serve as mentor teacher to participants in MPER's Teaching Fellowship Program, and intensive first-year immersion and concurrent fifth-year Master's degree program.

Curriculum and Missouri Assessment Program (MAP)

Conduct annual analysis of assessment data, present findings, assist in identification of curricular and instructional gaps, and facilitate faculty development of instructional improvements based on identified data trends.
Facilitate faculty workshops on curriculum, MAP, MSIP, state and national standards.
Completed RPDC MAP Senior Leader training and conducted parallel training of local faculty team.
Assist with development of K–12 curricula in all district content areas.
Attend annual SMCAA conferences and trainings on curriculum development, No Child Left Behind, and Missouri Reading First; make recommendations to administration and facilitate faculty understanding of related educational issues.

Missouri Service–Learning (Learn and Serve America Grant)

Wrote, secured, and administered grants over three years; approved, tracked, and reported all grant expenditures and district match.

Served as Central Region representative to statewide Missouri InterCorps Council (MICC).

Assisted faculty and students in planning and implementation of Service–Learning projects.

Facilitated communications and collaborations between the Hallsville school district, local organizations, and other community members.

Coordinated co-curricular Serving to Learn organization and assist with implementation of student-directed service projects for the school and community.

Developed and facilitated faculty Service–Learning training sessions.

Served as a reader for statewide grant applications.

Accompanied students to annual Missouri Service Day in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Attended state and national Service–Learning conferences, meetings, and training sessions.

Teaching and Other Duties

Teach at least one hour daily in various content areas—music, math, science, social studies, literacy—to both self-contained classes and small remediation and enrichment groups.

Provide release time for numerous faculty members to conduct peer observations.

Assist with facilitation of student-driven Channel 37 television news broadcasts; maintain studio.

Implemented after-school instrumental music ensemble for second, third, and fourth grade students.

Provide free private brass instruction to middle and high school students.

Established and direct Hallsville Youth Singers chorus for third and fourth grade students.

Assist with high school sectional and full band rehearsals.

Coordinate implementation of special educational opportunities (e.g., Food Power Adventure).

Maintain portions of district web presence to enhance both learning and communication.