

Heather H. Leighton

FORMAL EDUCATION

- 2020 - Present** **Western Washington University, Doctor of Education Degree (Ed.D.) Candidate**
Area of Emphasis: Equity-focused systems level and leadership for change
Washington State Superintendent's Credential; June 2022
- 2004 – 2007** **City University, Master of Education Degree (M.Ed.)**
Major: Education Administration
Washington State Principal's Credential
- 2002 - 2004** **City University, Master of Education Degree (M.Ed.)**
Major: Reading and Literacy
- 1999 - 2002** **Washington State University, Bachelor of Arts Degree (B.A.)**
Majors: Elementary Education
University Honors; Cum Laude
Washington State K-8 Teaching Credential

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

District Approved Curriculum
AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)
PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions & Support)
Action Research/Cycles of Inquiry
Project-Based Learning
Culminating (Senior) Projects
Service Learning
Culturally Responsive Teaching

Professional Development

Teacher and Principal Evaluation Project
Multi-Tiered System of Support
Response to Intervention
Positive Behavior Support
Professional Learning Communities
Mentoring and Coaching
Leadership Development
Restorative Discipline

Educational Leadership

Comprehensive School Improvement Planning
One-to-One Technology
Equity Audits
Recruitment, Hiring, and Retention of Quality Staff
Contract Negotiations
Budget Development and Management
Grant Writing
Crisis Management

Community Connections

Parent Involvement/Community Engagement
Business Partnerships
School Elections
Community Fund Raising Committees

Group Facilitation/Team Building

Written and Oral Communication
Strategic Planning
Facilitating
Event Planning
Professional Photographer

EMPLOYMENT

2016 - Present Principal, Vista Middle School (Ferndale, WA)

Responsibilities: Overseeing all aspects of running a school of approximately 600 students and 65 staff.

Accomplishments: Developed strategic school improvement plans while refocusing staff from managing to improving learning; Compiled and analyzed assessment data used to establish program objectives and measures in alignment with Common Core Standards; Adopted and implemented Professional Learning Communities; Implemented and aligned SEL services to maximize continuity with student access; Provided ongoing professional development and training for certificated and classified staff; Developed master schedule to guarantee maximum instructional time; Respectfully and professionally handled employee relations in a highly confidential manner.

2007 – 2016 Principal, Lummi Nation School (Lummi Nation)

Responsibilities: Overseeing all aspects of running a K-12 Tribally controlled school

Accomplishments: Created a data-driven system of academic support; Executed strategic and school improvement plans that resulted in the school being removed from BIE restructuring status; Worked directly with the school board and Tribal officials to restructure, revise, and implement school policies and procedures; Realigned resources to ensure program compliance; Managed a complex school budget of 8 million dollars of Tribal, State and Federal funds; Implemented a social service model allowing students to receive care within the educational structure; supervised ten departments; curriculum, operations and maintenance, transportation, food services, social services, language and culture, school security, human resources, budget and finance, and teaching and learning.

2002 – 2007 Teacher, Bernice Vossbeck Elementary; Lynden School District (Lynden, WA)

Responsibilities: Elementary classroom teacher; First and second grade

Accomplishments: Taught students from diverse backgrounds. Assumed responsibility and accountability for classroom academic progress. Built and maintained a classroom culture in which students loved learning. Increased parent involvement for advocacy of student learning.

2002 - 2003 Teacher, Washington Elementary; Mt. Vernon School District (Mt. Vernon, WA)

Responsibilities: Elementary classroom teacher; Second grade

Accomplishments: Taught students from diverse backgrounds. Assumed responsibility and accountability for classroom academic progress. Built and maintained a classroom culture in which students loved learning. Partnership with parents of English Language Learners.