

DATA WONKS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

CAREER PANEL BIO

Name: J.J. Andrews

Job Title: Assessment Specialist & Data Steward

Department/School: PEOPLE / Division of Diversity, Equity and Educational Achievement

Major Job Responsibilities:

1. Track student and academic progress and continuity of services between the academic year and summer programming, including the maintenance of scores, transfer of knowledge and academic information from 8th grade through college levels.
2. Analyze academic and standardized test and survey results in order to develop curriculum in alignment with local, state, and/or national academic and standardized testing standards (WCKE, ACT, and AP exams).
3. Lead effort to operationalize student information systems in the precollege unit, under the guidance of Assistant Director and Director of Data Management.
4. Provide data stewardship related to student tracking and participation in adherence to DDEEA data policies established by the Director of Data Management & the Data Council.

Short Biography (Two Paragraphs Max.):

Since September 2014, I have been an Assessment & Teaching Specialist with P.E.O.P.L.E. Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The role is a mixture of curriculum and instruction development blended with being the coordinator of college readiness and assessments. My title was officially changed to Assessment Specialist & Data Steward in September 2018.

Previously, I worked as a high school teacher and curriculum developer in the areas of social studies and English for eight years. My master's degree is from Brooklyn College-CUNY, and was obtained as a part of the New York City Teaching Fellowship program. Before that, I spent nearly 12 years in the print newspaper industry as a journalist and editor covering sports, government, and public education.

I recently completed coursework for my Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership | Curriculum & Instruction and preparing to submit my dissertation proposal tentatively titled Pedagogy of Deflection: Evaluating Readiness Standards and Assessments as Aids for Instruction vs. Methods for Governance. The purpose of the research is to investigate traditional, data-based academic measurements as instructional tools, while also investigating the use of academic measurements as deflections away from improving classroom instruction and toward external motivations of governance, political ideologies and profiteering.

What do you love most about data?

My background as a journalist taught me to seek out "the story" revealed by the facts. Data represents potential. The possibility exists for data to reveal and explain the truth, as well as the possibility to obscure and hide the truth. Data is only as valuable as the narrative it tells.