

Presenter Biography

Pamela VanHorn is the Director of the Ohio Network of Innovation and Improvement at the Ohio Department of Education. She and her staff support the work of school improvement across the state through a network of 16 regional centers as well as manage the Race to the Top STEM and Innovation Grants. Pamela began her career as a special education teacher, leaving after six years to serve as school administrator in middle and high schools for 28 years in urban and suburban settings. She was named the Ohio Middle School Principal of the Year in 2004 while serving as principal of Kilbourne Middle School in Worthington, Ohio. Pamela serves on the state wide Ohio Schools to Watch leadership team identifying National/Ohio Schools to Watch sponsored by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. Pam has served as an adjunct educator at Ashland University and has presented at national and state conferences. She received her Bachelor and Master's degrees from The Ohio State University. Her post graduate studies include work at The Ohio State University and Ashland University.

Lise Zeig is the Associate Commissioner for the State System of Support in the Center for Accountability, Partnership and Assistance at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. She oversees the delivery of targeted assistance for the state's highest need districts in the state. The assistance is designed in partnership with the districts to enhance their own service delivery capacity and infrastructure to improve its schools. The state system includes regional assistance centers serving districts across the state as well as an office focused on the state's largest, highest poverty districts known as the Commissioner's Districts - Boston, Brockton, Fall River, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, New Bedford, Springfield and Worcester.

She has worked at the ESE for nearly 30 years in many capacities. She initially focused on special education, interagency collaboration, family and community engagement, and after school programs. She has also been an administrator in the Accountability and Targeted Assistance Center, providing leadership for a range of initiatives including MCAS remediation, Expanded Learning Time, and school and district improvement planning.

Prior to joining the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, she taught in and administered special education programs for elementary and middle school students from New York City and Lawrence, Massachusetts. She was also one of the founders and an Executive Board chair of a day care center in Cambridge, Massachusetts.