



OKLAHOMA
Education



Matthew Wappett

Matthew Wappett is the Executive Director of the Utah State University Institute for Disability Research, Policy & Practice (UCEDD), with an affiliate appointment as a Research Associate Professor in the USU College of Education and Human Services. He was formerly the Co-Director of the University of Idaho Confucius Institute and had an affiliate faculty appointment as a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Dr. Wappett has also served as the Associate Director of the UI Center on Disabilities and Human Development and had a faculty appointment in the UI College of

Education. Dr. Wappett's background is in special education and disability studies; most of his research has been focused on creating inclusive environments to accommodate the needs of diverse populations.

Dr. Wappett also conducts research and writes about the effects of laughter in the classroom and genuinely enjoys teaching people how to laugh! He has been referred to by many as the "Laughter Doctor"! He has been a featured speaker at state and national conferences and training events. Dr. Wappett's teaching and research on creating inclusive learning environments has recently turned to the effects of environmental stress on learning and social interaction.

Dr. Wappett earned his Ph.D. in Special Education, an M.Ed. in Educational Studies, and a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Utah. Dr. Wappett has also attended Clinical Training for Mind Body Medicine through the Harvard Medical School. He completed his secondary teaching certification while pursuing his Master's degree at the University of Utah.



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Quinton Jones

Quinton Jones is the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and the Title IX Officer for Murray State College in Tishomingo, Oklahoma. As an inspirational and motivational speaker, Mr. Jones delivers every presentation with perseverance and love. His presentations inspire joy and self-preservation in his audience. Quinton's strength and passion are credited to his great-grandparents, who raised him. He credits his career successes to his pillars of strength, his former teachers, and coaches throughout his educational career. Mr. Jones graduated from high school in New Boston, Texas. He continued his education and played football at Henderson

State University in Arkansas. While in Arkansas, he completed his bachelor's degree with a major in speech and communication and a minor in political science from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. He earned his Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of Louisiana in Monroe, Louisiana. His previous employment is with the Chickasaw Nation, where he was the director of the Chickasaw Children's Village for more than ten years, working with over 80 students each of those years. Before that, he was a teacher Aide at his hometown elementary school. While continuing his education toward a PhD in Educational Leadership, Mr. Jones firmly believes that local education is the most essential pillar of any community.



Lynette Thompson

Dr. Lynette Thompson, University of Oklahoma, is a career educator with over 30 years of professional experience in public schools K-12 and higher education. She currently serves as the Director of the MAASE Program and manages Professional Services. Her career path includes:

- Special Education teacher
- Principal
- Executive Director of Special Services
- Executive Director of Student Services
- CAO of BRIDGES, mental health facility partnered with school districts
- School Consultant and Trainer
- University Asst. Professor / Director

Dr. Thompson's professional involvement includes being a member of the Cooperative Council of School Administrators (CCOSA) and serving on several OSDE committees. Dr. Thompson is the owner of Enlighten Consulting and Training, LLC. She provides professional development to school districts on multiple special education topics, data-driven decisions, and classroom strategies that ensure all students have the opportunity to learn. Dr. Thompson is also Certified Trainer for the Center for Teacher Effectiveness (CTE). She provides training through CTE on Classroom Management and Differentiated Instruction. Dr. Thompson's dissertation was "THE ROLE OF PRINCIPALS AS INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERS IN CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP BETWEEN REGULAR EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS IN A SUBURBAN SETTING."

She has been involved with course development and instructional experiences. She also authored quarterly articles for Better Schools while president of OMLEA, Oklahoma Middle-Level Education Association. Dr. Thompson was recognized as The El Reno District Teacher of the Year in 1997 and the Oklahoma Middle-Level Principal of the Year in 2008.



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Allyson Robinson



Allyson is a Director for the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Department of Wellness Sponsored Programs. In her role, she supports all Accessibility Programs including Oklahoma ABLE Tech, the state's Assistive Technology (AT) Act Program, serving individuals of all ages, in all environments, statewide. Other programs include the Special Education Resolution Center (SERC) and the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council (ORC), which

allow for greater support and services to those in K-12 as well as adults ready for (or currently in) Oklahoma's workforce, respectively. Allyson's role supports OSU's Student Accessibility Services as well.

Her background in speech pathology and assistive technology along with her passion to help people brought her to OSU 13 years ago. For 9 of those, she was also an adjunct lecturer at OSU teaching the Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) class to graduate students in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. She worked previously for Pawnee Public Schools serving children ages 3-18 with speech and language needs. Allyson and her husband, Kyle, have three sons, Carter, Callan, and Conley, and a daughter, Claire.



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The OPC is a statewide 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose main office is located in Holdenville, Oklahoma; however, we provide support and services to all of Oklahoma. Our mission is to train, inform, educate and support parents, families, professionals, and consumers in building partnerships that meet the needs of children and youth with the full range of disabilities ages birth through twenty-six.

The OPC is proud to be Oklahoma's designated Parent Training and Information Center (PTI). There is at least one PTI in each state and U.S. Territory and some states have more than one depending on population size; Oklahoma only has one PTI, which we have operated since 2008. The purpose of a PTI is to ensure that parents of children with disabilities and youth with disabilities receive training and information to help improve educational results for themselves or their children. Our role is to help families and schools to understand the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and how to use it to benefit children with all disabilities.