



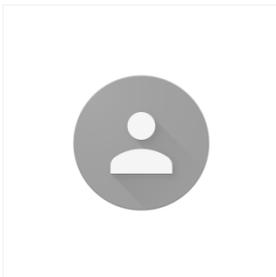
JASON's Next Generation Science Standards Task Force 2014-2017 For Educators, by Educators

Meet the Team



Paul Bovenzi
Director, Professional Development Academy
West Warwick Public Schools

Paul has been an educator for 20 years. After 15 years of teaching Math and Science to middle school students, he is currently a local, statewide and national trainer of teachers in best practices in classroom management and foundations of teaching. Paul carries his National Board Certification and serves as the Educator Evaluation Coordinator of West Warwick Public Schools. He is active in his teachers' union as an officer and member of the Education Committee. Paul has spent the last 5 years working with the teachers in his district to incorporate JASON and the Next Generation Science Standards into inquiry-based units of study.



Janice Conklin
Science Teacher
Warwick Public Schools

Janice Conklin is a 7-8th grade science teacher in Warwick, RI. She has been teaching for 19 years, and has been using JASON Learning with her students for the past 4 years. Her philosophy of getting kids out into the field, and engaged in as much hands-on activity as possible guides her teaching. She is a dedicated teacher and mom.



Erin Escher, Co-Chair
Instructional Science Coach and Instruction Specialist
Portsmouth Public Schools

Erin has been teaching at Portsmouth Middle School for the past 15 years. As a former eighth grade science teacher and leader of the school's garden and hydroponics club, Erin shares his curiosity in science and enjoys the interactive role in his students' discovery and generation of knowledge. He has been influential in promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) at his school by leading STEM workshops, developing MakerSpaces, and creating a STEAM advisory Team. Erin is also a mentor at Brown University for pre-service science teachers, a co-chair for JASON's NGSS Task Force, and was a life science specialist for the NSF-funded Rhode Island Technology Enhanced Science program. Erin Received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, earned a NASA leadership certificate in STEM education from the Teachers College at Columbia University; a National Board Certification in early adolescence science; a certificate of advanced degree of study in education from Roger Williams University; a B.A. in environmental studies from the University of California Santa Barbara; and a M.Ed. in curriculum, instruction and assessment from Adams State University.

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Kate Jackson
Science Teacher
Woonsocket Public Schools

Kate has worked as a Middle School Science teacher in Woonsocket, Rhode Island for 26 years. Teaching a variety of content areas has led her to an interest in JASON Learning for the last 4 years. Kate was also involved with Save the Bay for 3 years and participated in many professional development opportunities through that group. As part of the DANA Center writing team for the last 4 years, Kate contributed to the writing of the NGSS-aligned science curriculum recently adopted. Last summer, she had the opportunity to participate in the National Summer Teacher Institute on Innovation, Stem and Intellectual Property at The University of Texas in Dallas. Kate writes, "my enjoyment for teaching has been enhanced through my work with the above groups. JASON Learning, in particular, will continue to provide a wealth of high level hands-on activities as we move forward integrating the Next Generation Science Standards into my district."



Catherine Hawthorne-Kocak
Science Teacher
Warwick Public Schools

Cathy is a dedicated 20 year veteran educator. She has taught in Indiana, New York, and Rhode Island at both the elementary and middle school levels. Especially interested in providing learning opportunities that are real and meaningful to students, she has received Educator of the Year awards from JASON Learning and from the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District. Currently, Cathy is pursuing a PhD in Education at URI and RIC while continuing to enjoy teaching middle school science in Warwick, Rhode Island.



John Labriola
7-8th Grade Science Teacher
CHARIHO Regional School District

John has been teaching for 30 years. After teaching Biology for 4 years, John has spent the last 26 years teaching 7th and 8th Grade Science at CHARIHO Middle School. John was the Teacher of the Year, State Semi-finalist, and recipient of the Amgen Teacher Leader Award. Over the years, John has been a member of the Rhode Island Center for School Leadership Disciplinary Literacy Science Lead Team and Rhode Island Science Education Leadership Team. He also worked on several NSF projects including the Rhode Island Technology Enhanced Science (RITES Project) as a participant and developer, and the RITES+C as a developer. John has been a consultant with NOAA and HMM, aligning curriculum with NGSS, and has most recently joined the JASON-NGSS Alignment team in RI.

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Alison Murray
Central Falls High School
Central Falls, RI

Since the completion of the alternative certification with the Rhode Island Teaching Fellows Program in 2011, Alison has been a science teacher and leading the physics curriculum at Central Falls High School. Currently, she is working on developing the engineering and computer science programs. Besides physics she is certified in chemistry, biology and general science. Previous to becoming a high school teacher Alison spent many years as an industrial scientist with a variety of healthcare and pharmaceutical companies. During that time she was named on 3 United States patents. She was also one of the founders of the Bayer Science Forum where, along with the National Science Foundation and Carolina Biological, she helped develop the concept for the hand-on science kits that are still in use in thousands of high schools across the country. Earlier in her career, she was a college lecturer and administrator at Indiana University Purdue University Columbus where she won the prestigious Indiana University Board of Trustees Teaching Excellence Award.



Jane Ramos
8th Grade Science Teacher
Gallagher Middle School, Smithfield, RI

Jane has been in the education field for 28 years. For the first 10 years, she was an elementary teacher and has spent the last 18 years teaching middle school. Jane is very proud of the work she has done at her middle school, from developing the science curriculum for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade as it has evolved over the years. She has also assisted with the Science Olympiad Team, and helped with the school's yearbook. She is most proud of having participated in JASON activities since the early 1990's and still uses and embraces the JASON Learning program today. One area of science she is most passionate about is climate change. When she is not immersed in teaching and JASON, Jane can be found gardening, walking, & biking. And . . . her favorite animal is the cheetah!



Carol-Ann Silvestri
JASON District Coach
8th grade Science Teacher and Co-Advisor NEED Science Club.

For the last eight years, Carol-Ann has been a science teacher in West Warwick, RI. During this time, she has taught at the high school level and most recently at Deering Middle School. Being a district JASON coach, she is able to collaborate and share ideas with colleagues. During this time, Carol-Ann has worked on the JASON NGSS Task Force, allowing her to become an expert on the NGSS. Last year, she became a co-advisor to an award-winning after-school program. This program allows students to have fun with science, learn leadership skills, and better the community. An energy carnival, energy expo, and student led workshops for teachers have been a few of the events Carol-Ann has coordinated at her school. Carol-Ann dedicates much of her time to Project ARISE, RISTA, NEED, and JASON. She is a devoted mom to her twins and enjoys creating handmade greeting cards.