



NEWSLETTER

WWW.PROJECTFRONTIER.ORG

AUGUST 2024

WELCOME

The overarching goal of Project FRONTIER is to increase the capacity of the partner USDs to provide access to trauma-support services and mental health care to meet the needs of affected students in order to break the cycle of violence and trauma in the families and communities.

LOGO

The Project FRONTIER logo was designed with intention to focus on the future and the possibilities it holds for our region. Imagine having a spyglass that enables you to see years into the future when students, families, and educators in Northwest Kansas are thriving. We believe a tomorrow is possible where all community members are working together to ensure everyone is healthy, both physically and mentally. We believe our work today will help us achieve that bright tomorrow!

MEET THE TEAM



LORA THOMAS
DIRECTOR

Lora's background in education and experience in the mental health profession run parallel to Project FRONTIER. She began her career teaching Head Start, but later moved away from formal education settings to focus on community-based organizations that impact and expand services for youth, families, and communities. Lora served as a management consultant with Girl Scouts of the USA before becoming director of the National Runaway Switchboard. Most recently, Lora was director of Project EVERS [Ending Violence and its Effects in Rural Schools], which was developed to meet the needs of students living in rural areas in Northwest Kansas that have been affected by trauma or violence in their homes and communities. She also served as executive director of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Illinois and worked on contract with the Illinois Division of Mental Health. She has been a consultant on mental health for the past several years for Innovative Strategies for Out-of-School and Secondary Youth (iOSY).
Email - lthomas@nkesc.org
Phone - 217-416-6111



KERRI SCHEETZ
DISTRICT LIAISON

Kerri serves as a District Liaison for Project Frontier. She has worked in multiple education roles throughout her professional career. Her most cherished times are when she was working directly with students through the office and coaching volleyball. Kerri received her Associates from Colby Community College and is a certified trainer in The Energy Bus, The Energy Bus for Schools, The Power of Positive Leadership, and The Power of a Positive Team. Kerri has completed the PREPaRE training offered through the National Association of School Psychologists. She has worked for NKESC for the last five years as the Business Manager and most recently in Human Resources.
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WATCH FOR MONTHLY
NEWSLETTERS!





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WEBSITE

Here's what you will find when you visit Project FRONTIER's growing website found at www.projectfrontier.org:

- **Events** Page with information about upcoming events and how to access materials from past events.
- **Meet the Team** page with all the contact info you need to reach us.
- **Resources** page with important links and information.
- **Calendar** page with dates and times for our events and meetings.
- **Districts** page where you can see who is involved and visit their district websites.
- **Administrators** page where you can access your own Project FRONTIER information and data privately.
- Additional information as the project continues to grow.

MEET THE TEAM



EMILY FAULKENDER
DISTRICT LIAISON

Emily graduated from Kansas State University in 2019 having earned her Bachelor's Degree in Human Development and Family Sciences. In 2022, she graduated from Wichita State University with her Master's Degree in Special Education. Emily has worked in education serving different roles including a Paraeducator, Autism Director Assistant, trainer for paras to work with students diagnosed with Autism, and as a Special Education Teacher. Emily will now be serving on the Project Frontier team as a District Liaison. Emily has completed the PREPaRE training through the National Association of School Psychologists.
Email - efaulkender@nkesc.org
Phone - 785-302-0754



JENNY MITCHELL
DISTRICT LIAISON

Jenny graduated from Liberty University with a degree in theology. She has since worked in several non-conventional education roles as a homeschooling parent, homeschool coop coordinator, and as a Sexual Risk Avoidance Specialist teaching healthy relationships and choices in middle and high schools. Jenny has been certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid and served on the Social Emotional Learning Council for Garden City Public Schools. Jenny will now be serving on the Project Frontier team as a District Liaison.
Email - jmitchell@nkesc.org
Phone - 712-212-2757

Who are Project Frontier's District Liaisons?

Email your answer to efaulkender@nkesc.org for a chance to win a prize!



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