

Biography

Dr. Andrea Torres-Blue is a licensed professional, obtained her Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership from Northcentral University (2019); Master of Science in Human Resource Development: Educational Leadership from Towson University (2013); Master Arts of Teaching in Special Education and Elementary Education from Goucher College (2011); Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies (Education and Psychology) from Coppin State University (2009), and High School Diploma from Encina Preparatory High School (1995). School Coordinator for Student Mentoring, active memberships include Girl Scouts of America, KDP, GKI, NABSE, DST, and NEA. Dr. Blue is a mother and wife upholding her commitment through service.

Dr. Andrea Torres-Blue

*Teacher * Board Member * Mentor * Technology*

Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership Northcentral University, CA	2019
Master of Science in Human Resource Development Educational Leadership Towson University, MD	2013
Master Arts of Teaching in Special Education and Elementary Education Goucher College, MD	2011
Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies in Education and Psychology Coppin State University, MD	2009
Diploma High School Graduate, Encina Preparatory High School, CA	1995

Certifications

Maryland State Department of Education: Advanced Professional Certificate, Administrator I
Teaching Endorsement: Special Education (Infant-Adult)
Teaching Endorsement: Elementary Education
Teaching Endorsement: Reading
State of Maryland Certificate: Notary Public

Professional Experience

Baltimore County Public Schools

2006- Current

Student Support Team Coordinator, Administrative Assistant, Secondary Substitute Teacher, SPED Secretary and SPED Instructional Assistant, Behavior Learning Support Paraeducator, Attendance Monitor/Scheduler

- **Special Education Teacher & Case Manager**, Ridgely Middle School, MD
- **Board Member**, Clinical Solutions Incorporated, MD
- **IEP Team/Case Manager & Special Education Teacher**, Harford County Public Schools, MD
- **Special Education Teacher & Case Manager**, Baltimore City Public Schools, MD
- **Reading Teacher**, Parks and People Foundation, MD
- **Administrative & Billing Secretary**, Marjorie Falk, LCSW-C, MA, ADTR, MD
- **Salon Owner/Licensed Cosmetologist**, Divine Design Studios, CA
- **Early Childhood Teacher**, Children's World, CA
- **Restricted Stock Transfer Agent**, E*TRADE Financial, CA
- **Call Center Insurance Representative**, Progressive Insurance, CA
- **Small Business Customer Service Agent**, E*TRADE Financial, CA

Board Member

- *Establishing the Organization's Mission and Purpose; Hire and set compensation for the CEO or Executive Director; Read, write and interpret financial statements exploring legal implications surrounding fiduciary duties and more.*
- *Advancing and serving as advocate for the values and missions of the organization, Fundraising, and Overseeing the documentation of agendas and minutes.*
- *Made executive decisions in forming the structure of the internal organization, finances, public relations, and meetings with the use of Robert's Rules of Order.*
- *Developed structured committees; Developed and documented all methods and procedures for both internal departments as well as guidelines involving external relationships; Write manuals for distribution and acts as final editor for presentations and legal documentation; Created marketing collateral: Brochures, data sheets, blogs, social media, and website content*
- *Delegate and allocate manageable goals to employees based on team needs, interests and development needs while clearly delineating to team-members project responsibilities and performance expectations for long- and short-term work plans; Set clear priorities for team and individuals, including appropriate allocation of resources, time, money and people.*

School Administrative Leadership

- *School Mentor Coordinator (2019), Stakeholder Representative, Pupil Personnel Services, Community Partnerships, School Safety, Community Resources, Human, Service, Financial Services, Grade Level Curriculums, Policies/Procedures/Guidelines, Communication Expansion/Involvement/Liaison, and Student Ambassador.*
- *Researched clients' financial background and looked for qualifying programs; Developed grant proposal with submission both paper and electronically; Developed financial aid grants to aid the development of school-wide initiatives, researched program goals and school BCPS Blue Print 2.0 progress; Assisted personnel in requirements completion of grant requirements and management.*
- *Student Teachers: Provided instructional leadership and supervision for 2 or more faculty/staff (Summer) Teaching Reading Program (Parks and People, Goucher College). Supervision of 6 or more Paraeducators.*
- *Curriculum coordinator for special education and general education inclusion. Program and policy writer for mental health education and implementation of best practices.*
- *Professional Development Facilitator/Coordinator: researching, gathering information to supply training opportunities to the School of Education Coppin State University (2009), and the School of Social Work for Baltimore County Public Schools (2011).*
- *Suspension Coordinator: federal and state legislation and guidelines governing education and discipline of students (general and Special Education) and student assignment; knowledge of federal laws, state laws, school boards policies and the professional standards for both urban education and other school settings. Enrollment and Retention Support (PPW). Documenting suspension, student discipline incidents, due process, A1 Hearings, Reinstatements, police and legal reporting*
- *Coordinator of Student Support Team: building relationships with key stakeholders, familiar with McKinney Vento and processes for enrolling homeless students as well as students under Informal Kinship Care and other agencies (parents, teachers, students, administration, pupil personnel workers, community members, and mentors).*
- *IEP Team Leader and Case Manager: maximized capacity to meet the needs of students and staff by taking the initiative to apply and adapt to rapidly fluctuating policies and procedures.*
- *Freshman Class Advisor: Procurement, maintains financial records, coordinate graduation requirements, organize field trips and professional developments (2013-2014).*
- *Administrative Secretary: Highly Proficient in technologies, clerical duties, organize and maintain files and records, attend meetings; also, mail, fax, or arrange for delivery of data and or documents. Excellent verbal, written and interpersonal communication and presentation skills.*
- *Academic Teacher: Teacher K-12 grade levels of general /special education, and inclusion teaching (2010-Current). Extended School Year Teacher.*
- *IEP Team Leader, IEP Scheduler, Case Manager, Mentoring: Leader/Co-Leader of a school-wide mentoring program. Creating measurable benchmarks to gain baseline standards for a point of to compare actual performance of students in self-contained settings vs those in general education to modify the curriculum for student academic enhancement.*
- *Facilitates consults, and co-teaches social skills, anger management strategies, and conflict resolution skills to classes, small groups, and individual students.*
- *Behavior Learning Support: gather and store data related to student behavior, suspension data, anecdotal records, FBA/BIP/ABC charts, records related to exclusion, seclusion, and restraint.*
- *Creating, implementing, reporting and analyzing data for aligned standard based grading and curriculum rigor and implementation.*

Awards & Recognitions & Professional Memberships

- *William Donald Shafer Award Scholarship*
- *Tom Joyner Scholarship*
- *Dean's List*
- *National Education Association, 2006*
- *Pi Gamma Mu, 2007*
- *Pi Lambda Theta, 2010*
- *Honor Society, 2017*
- *National Alliance of Black School Educators, 2019*
- *Endowed Women Award Scholarship*
- *Restorative Practices Award*
- *Honors: Cum, Magna, Cum,*
- *Maryland State Education Association, 2006*
- *Psi Chi, 2009*
- *Kappa Delta Pi, 2011*
- *Golden Key International Honor Society 2019*
- *Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, 2019*
- *Northcentral University, National Campaign Rebrand Award, 2019*

Personal Statement

I have had the great privilege to support the Baltimore County Public School community in a variety of positions over the past 11 years, including my current role as Special education Teacher for Ridgely Middle school. I now seek to represent teachers as a member of the Maryland State Department of Education as the Teacher Board Member. In this capacity if elected I hope to continue to support teacher initiatives and student learning and achievement on a broader scale. I desire to meet the high expectations of our state and communities throughout and build on our tradition of excellence in preparing our children for success. I will work hard to ensure that all students of the state great State of Maryland benefits from my dedication to making wise decisions that enhance student learning and achievement.

I will work hard to make sure the voices of the teachers are heard and that all stakeholders' concerns are met with fidelity. I believe that by focusing our energy and attention on the needs of the whole child, we can facilitate collaboration among all stakeholders to provide opportunity and growth for every student. If elected I will abide by order and serve with integrity and committed dedication. I will stand by the right side and remain true to abiding by the laws, equity, creating and sustaining an inclusive and safe culture for every district, eliminating barriers to learning, cultivating cultural competence, and last but not least staying committed to excellence.

I remain excited to work for all stakeholders, as I love being a teacher and find it to be one of the hardest yet memorable professions that exist. There will be challenges to doing this, it is not easy work, and we all know that it is an on-going process, a journey. I believe with my experience electing me in this position will not only allow me to be of assistance and the voice of every teacher but also allow me to grow as an educator. I hope to exercise collaboration and prioritize the needs of all stakeholders. I fully understand that there is no greater trust and responsibility that can be given to an individual than to be entrusted with a child's education. If I am elected, I will continue to work tirelessly to uphold that trust and responsibility to provide a voice for the teachers.

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Darryl L. Williams, Ed.D. • Superintendent • 6901 North Charles Street • Towson, MD • 21204

Ridgely Middle School
Department Special Education
Department Chair

Office: 443-809-7650
Fax: 443-809-7834

September 24, 2019

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to write this recommendation on behalf of Dr. Blue. During her time at Ridgely she persevered and completed her Doctoral Degree which is reflective of her accomplishments and abilities as a teacher and case manager. Dr. Blue was hired as a special education teacher four years ago and has had a positive impact on the department and school. Dr. Blue is attentive to her professional responsibilities. Her commitment to professional productivity and ability to connect with students and staff make her a pleasure to work with.

Dr. Blue is a genuine listener and supportive colleague, I rely on Dr. Blue's attention to detail in managing complex situations to support developing relationships with students and families which is an integral part of the school's vision. Dr. Blue's ability to take initiative, technology skills and interest in helping the students succeed allow her to make meaningful connections with others. It is clear that Dr. Blue is a critical thinker and is skilled at synthesizing information to make decisions in the best interest of our students and staff. When discussing challenging situations, Dr. Blue is able to recall important details, identify patterns and use this information to individualize effective solutions.

Dr. Blue expertly plans, attends meetings, and keeps meticulous records for students on her case load. Dr. Blue possesses skills that are dynamic to meeting the needs of the school. Dr. Blue has proven to be an exceptional instructor, advocate, case manager, interventionist, and cheerleader among those she supports. Without hesitation I commend Dr. Blue's abilities, and I would highly recommend giving her the opportunity to be considered for a leadership position.

All the best,



Sara Neff
Special Education Department Chair

Maryland State Department of Education
ATTN: State Board of Education
Teacher Member Board Position

September 28, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation for Andrea' Torres- Blue, EdD, MS, MAT, BS for the teacher member position on the State Board of Education. Mrs. Blue has worked closely with my daughter at Ridgely Middle as a special educator. Her positive spirit, uplifting energy and continual advocacy for my daughters' needs have been truly unbelievable. Mrs. Blue looks at each child and their needs individually and even when the situation seems as though there may not be a solution she fought and advocated for the services that would meet her needs no matter what it took. She truly goes above and beyond from staying in regular contact with us, checking in with my daughter at school, meeting with her during the day as well as after school and just lifting her spirits when that's all she needed.

When my daughter entered sixth grade there were a lot of concerns how she would navigate the larger classroom size, how that may trigger and affect her anxiety and what services may accommodate her learning differences specifically in Math. During that time there were significant concerns that she may not be successful, and it was affecting our daughter's confidence as she felt like a continued failure in the classroom and test taking. Ms. Blue went above and beyond to call us during the day after checking on her, after school to inform us of what the next steps are and advocated for us to have an emergency IEP meeting. Her recommendations were always what was best for our daughter, not necessarily the easiest and sometimes outside the box but what was in her best interest. Not only did she assist with making sure she was successful in the classroom but provided all the tri annual testing and with an approach that decreased anxiety.

The growth that I saw in my daughter from an educational perspective, her approach to learning but most importantly was truly amazing. I know this is due to Mrs. Blue's countless hours she spent making sure our daughter received what was best for her individual case. Our daughter's entry to seventh grade this year was smooth and so far, has been navigating it with success and confidence and with Mrs. Blue's continual advocacy and support. It goes without saying that we would without question support the nomination of Mrs. Andrea' Torres-Blue for the position of teacher member board position for the Maryland State Board of Education. You would be lucky to have Mrs. Andrea' Torres-Blue a member on the board.

Sincerely,

Melanie and Toby Haffner
Seventh grade daughter at Ridgely Middle School

September 27, 2019

To whom this may concern,

I had the pleasure of teaching alongside Dr. Blue as she taught Special Education in Baltimore City Public School. Dr. Blue impressed me with her ability to be articulate about difficult concepts and texts, her sensitivity to the nuances of Special Education, and her passion for reading, writing, and creative expression- both in and out of the classroom.

Throughout the year Dr. Blue was an active participant in our meetings and special education discussions, and she always supported her peers. Her caring nature and personality allow her to work well with others in a team setting and one on one, as she always respects others' opinions even when they differ from her own. During social skill sessions Dr. Blue was able to help student understand their role in conflict and how to avoid peer to peer confrontation with real life strategies.

Throughout the years, Dr. Blue demonstrated this openness to and empathy for the opinions, feelings, and perspectives of others, along with perceptive powers of observation, all qualities that makes her outstanding teacher and that will spill over to making her an outstanding Board Member. I am certain that Dr. Blue is going to continue to do great and creative things in her future.

I highly recommend Dr Blue, he is talented, caring, intuitive, dedicated, and focused in her pursuits. Dr. Blue consistently seeks out constructive feedback so she can improve her performance, practices, and skills, which is a rare and impressive quality. Dr. Blue is truly a stand-out individual who will impress everyone she meets. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at '


LaShelia Speaks-Walker, APC, CASE, MSW/MPsy
Special Educator