



“Every Child Thrives: A Journey in Early Childhood Equity Strategies”

A Crucible of Practice Salon
June 11, 2024 / 12:30 – 2 pm EST

CONVERSATION LEADS



Jenny Borst
Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Watertown Unified School District

Jenny Borst is an educational professional with a background in both teaching and administration. She earned her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from UW-Madison, followed by a Master’s in Educational Leadership from the same institution. Jenny has five years of experience as an elementary teacher in California and Wisconsin. She then served as the principal at Douglas Elementary in Watertown, Wisconsin for seven years, where she developed her passion for fostering a strong core curriculum to support all children’s learning and growth. For the past decade, Jenny has been the Director of Elementary Education in the Watertown Unified School District, and recently transitioned to the role of Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Outside of her professional life, Jenny enjoys spending time with her family exploring the outdoors and traveling.



Jessica Johnson
District Administrator
Dodgeland School District

Dr. Jessica Johnson is Superintendent of the Dodgeland School District, a rural district in Juneau, WI, that serves five small communities. Prior to this role, she served as an elementary principal for 11 years and 3 years as a middle/high school principal in the same district. Dr. Johnson also serves as an Adjunct Professor for Viterbo University and has authored multiple books for educators.



Abbigail Kuehn
Assistant Director
Watertown Department of Public
Health

As Assistant Director of the Watertown Department of Public Health, Abbey brings 11 years of comprehensive experience in public health. Earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Alverno College in Milwaukee, WI, she developed a solid foundation in clinical practice and public health principles allowing her to begin her career as a Public Health Nurse with the department. Through her work in programs focusing on Maternal Child Health such as the department's Prenatal Care Coordination program and TalkReadPlay Home Visiting program, she collaborates closely with departmental stakeholders to develop and implement policies, programs, and services aimed at promoting public health and mitigating health disparities. One of Abbey's key strengths lies in her ability to forge meaningful connections with diverse populations, fostering trust and engagement in underserved communities. Her work in the community allows her to partner with stakeholders to conduct community health assessments, identify health disparities, and advocate for equitable access to services. Abbey is dedicated to advancing health equity, promoting preventive care, and empowering individuals and families to thrive in her community.



Kim Melcher
Chief Impact Officer
Greater Watertown Community
Health Foundation

Kim weaves together the people, strategies, and data that drive the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation's mission to measurably advance the well-being of young children and families throughout Dodge and Jefferson Counties. Kim's high-touch, collaborative leadership style effectively engages staff, stakeholders, and community leaders around the complex challenges of systems change. Kim continuously builds the capacity of the multi-sector teams she leads, modeling innovation and an entrepreneurial approach. Her role, in part, is finding ways to powerfully connect people to the work—and to each other—using data, best practices, and inspiration.

An experienced community health strategist, Kim has been shepherding successful programming for more than two decades. Past roles include Deputy Director for ABCD: After Breast Cancer Diagnosis, Suburban Milwaukee County Coordinator for the Wisconsin Well Woman Program, Coordinator of Community Workforce Health at Community Memorial Hospital, and Health Educator with Independent Care. She holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Concordia University and a Bachelor of Science

Degree in Community Health Education from the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse. Kim holds a Professional Certification in Results Based Accountability.



Susan Olson
Social Impact Coordinator
Greater Watertown Community
Health Foundation

Susan is a highly-skilled project manager, overseeing complex initiatives that require coordinating people, perspectives, resources, and deadlines. With the belief that “progress happens at the speed of relationships”, Susan creates community around strategic priorities. She convenes organized, effective, and gracious work sessions that build momentum for our collaborative teams. Work experience in both technology and parks and recreation (where she created award-winning programs and was recognized twice as employee of the year) built Susan's management and project leadership skills, which are complemented by intermediate proficiency in Spanish. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee



Carol Quest
Health Officer/Director
Watertown Department of Public
Health

Carol has dedicated 35 years to the health and wellness of our region as a Registered Nurse, and for over 15 years she has been the Director/Health Officer of the Watertown Department of Public Health. Through her career, she has provided bedside nursing at Watertown Regional Medical Center, and has worked at local County and City health departments as both a Public Nurse and an administrator. Carol's profession has given her the opportunity to impact and support current and emerging Public Health practices in our region and as a State and local public health advocate she has garnered the knowledge and skills needed to understand the complexities of improving public health. Carol currently serves on several boards, including the Watertown Regional Medical Center Joint Venture Board, Watertown Area Cares Clinic, a non-profit medical provider for low-income, uninsured residents; Dodge/Jefferson Healthier Community Partnership and Dodge/Jefferson Community Health Assessment. She is a member of Healthiest Wisconsin 2020, where she also served on the board and implementation plan committee.