

Riverside UniServ Council Director to the Board Nominees

Bill Beville, EVERGREEN E A

I became a Cowboys fan in 1967 when I was born in Dallas, Texas. I've always been close to my Texas family, especially my grandfather, Glenn: a union steel-worker. He was always proud that I chose to teach and I know he'd be even more proud that I became a strong union leader.

My education pre-service was in Logan, UT at Utah State University, but my first true life-changing moment was when I was hired to teach sixth-grade at Burton elementary in 1995. I love teaching.

Skip forward a little more than a decade and I am being asked by my Local President to go out to do one-on-one interviews in the buildings. This is what changed me. I came to love the work of listening and supporting our members. I was elected to the EEA executive board, then to vice president, and eventually I was elected as the current president in a hard-fought election (running against my good friend Adam Aguileria!)

Since joining the board of directors in 2016, I have served on both the WEA RA Workgroup Committee and currently use my love of language on the Documents & Resolutions Committee.

I look forward to the direction WEA is moving towards combating institutional racism. I've always made this a priority, having my members serve at both the local and uniserv level on the newly formed equity teams.

I hope to continue serving, keeping WEA-Riverside as a leader and priority within the WEA. I would appreciate your vote.

Suzanne Southerland, CLARK COLLEGE AHE

Suzanne Southerland is a tenured professor of communication studies at Clark College and serves as the president of the Clark College Association for Higher Education (CCAHE). She has also served as the CCAHE Secretary and Bargaining Support Team Chair.

Suzanne spent the past year leading the organizing efforts of the CCAHE which included: increasing membership from 40 percent to 80 percent, developing a structure of Building Representatives, garnering support from union allies and other activist groups, planning and implementing dozens of solidarity actions, and maintaining strong communication with media outlets. After 15 months of negotiations, she ultimately led their union in a three-day strike that resulted in a fair contract for all Clark College faculty.

Suzanne has also created structures within CCAHE leadership that are providing more members with "a seat at the table." She's assembled an Event Committee, Bargaining Support Team, Contract Committee and identified new roles including Communications Officer, Membership Coordinator, and Outreach Officers.

Suzanne lobbied in Olympia for the past three years in support of higher education bills such as HB 1237, HB 2158 and just recently testified in support of HB 2564.

A long-time WEA member, Suzanne has a strong union background: her dad was a proud member of the USW (United Steel Workers) and the NALC (National Association of Letter Carriers), and her mom who was a proud member of the BCTGM (Bakers, Confectionary, Tobacco, Grain Millers) for 35 years.

Joe Thayer, RIDGEFIELD E A

Thank you for participating in our elections. Your board members set policy and represent you in guiding our union. I've been a leader at the local and council level for the past 11 years, where I've brought a focus on inclusion, policy, and professionalism to my work.

Values:

- Representing all members, particularly those who have not had a strong voice in *WEA* leadership.
- Improving the lives of our members and their students by building more inclusive, equitable, and just workplaces and social structures.
- Respecting voices including those outside the mainstream and outside the majority opinion.
- Educating members about the benefits and value provided by their union.
- Focusing on thoughtful policy-making to realize the values of our WEA members.

Goals:

- Increasing communication between the members and WEA leadership.
- Continuing the work to research, inform, and advocate for legislative priorities that improve our schools: particularly around Special Education, Intervention/Enrichment, and Social/Emotional supports.
- Ensuring educators have a robust voice in statewide and local decision making.

Relevant experience:

Local

- President, vice president, bargaining team lead, representative to RA, grievance officer, and building rep

Riverside Council

- Vice president; council policies and bylaws committee chair, council budget committee member

Endorsed by:

- Council Leaders: Anna-Melissa Lyons, president; Shauna Ruse, treasurer; Francis Jequinto, secretary
- Local Presidents: Bill Beville, EEA; Shelley Houle, CEA; Alan Adams, REA; Megan Miles, HEA; Shauna Ruse, CAEOP
- Riverside equity committee member Rebecca Frommlett