



Engagement Event

November 18

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm



Speaker Biographies:



Name: Kindy Joseph

Biography:

Kindy has been with the public service for over 20 years and has worked in a number of government departments, including Health, Seniors, Community and Social Services, and others. The Program and System Support division works with school authorities in providing guidance with operational issues as well as departmental lead for mental health in schools and in providing supports for children and students with specialized learning needs.



Name: Debbie Pushor, PhD

Biography:

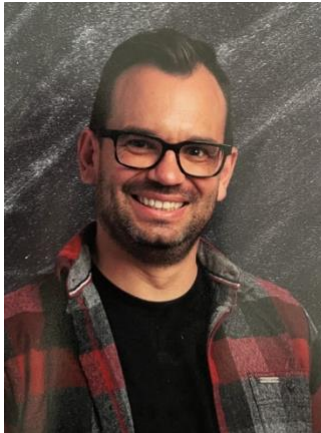
Debbie is a mother of three adult sons (Cohen, Quinn, and Teague), and a former public school teacher, consultant, principal, and central services administrator. She currently works as a Professor in the Department of Curriculum Studies at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada.

In her program of research, Debbie has engaged in narrative inquiries into parent engagement and leadership, a curriculum of parents, and parent knowledge. She is currently engaged in research on systematic parent engagement in an elementary and a secondary school in Saskatchewan. In her undergraduate and graduate teaching, Debbie makes central an often absent or underrepresented conversation about the positioning of parents in relation to school landscapes.

Working with graduate students, Debbie has published two books, ***Portals of Promise: Transforming Beliefs and Practices through a Curriculum of Parents*** (Sense Publishers, 2013)

and *Living as Mapmakers: Charting a Course with Children Guided by Parent Knowledge* (Sense Publishers, 2015). She has also published numerous articles and book chapters and has co-edited a book on teacher education. More information can be found at www.debbiepushor.ca.

Debbie led the development of a 9-part video series on parent engagement in Early Childhood settings. The videos, *Care as a Bridge Between Us*, have been released as a free course through Debbie's website.



Name: Brent Campbell

Biography:

Brent has been married for 10 years to his amazing wife Crystal, and together they have two beautiful children, Berg (age six) and Adreen (age three). He has been teaching for 16 years; eight years in lower elementary and eight years in middle years. He started his parent engagement journey in 2014, and since then the heart of his teaching philosophy has been centered around family engagement.

Presentation Resources:

Henderson, A. T. (2007). *Beyond the bake sale: The essential guide to family-school partnerships*. New Press: Distributed by W.W. Norton.

Pushor, D. and the Parent Engagement Collaborative. (2013). *Portals of promise: Stories of transforming beliefs and practices through a curriculum of parents*. Rotterdam, NL: Sense Publishers.

<https://www.debbiepushor.ca/courses/bridgebetweenus>



Name: Melissa McFarlane, M. Ed

Biography:

Melissa is a Kindergarten teacher with the North East School Division in the community of Melfort, Saskatchewan. With 19 years of early childhood experience, Melissa values her role of welcoming families to the formalized portion of education, the school. Melissa strives to honor the learning that young children come to school with, as well as their first teachers, parents. By

valuing parent knowledge and honouring hopes and dreams, Melissa seeks to accompany parents in the lifelong journey of educating their children.



Name: Vicki Moore

Biography:

Vicki's professional career has been highlighted by many rich experiences within Sun West School Division. She has served her division as classroom teacher, coach, principal, superintendent of school operations and now as the Director of Education for the division. In each role, Vicki's work has been driven by her belief in the limitless potential of every child.

Vicki co-led the Sun West School Division Parent Engagement Circle, consisting of parents, SCC members, teachers, support staff, division staff and school leaders to explore and implement effective and authentic parent and community engagement. In her role as Director of Education, she continues to work with her team seeking further ways to implement a systemic approach to parent engagement. Vicki is currently the primary lead for the Student Transition Priority of the Saskatchewan Provincial Education Plan. This priority focuses on enhanced opportunities for learners and their families as they enter and progress through school to graduation.



Name: Kathy Robson

Biography:

Kathy has been an educator for 34 years. She began as an elementary teacher in several rural communities in Saskatchewan primarily teaching in grades K-3. She was a vice principal and principal for 10 years and a Curriculum Coordinator for 10 years, where she was responsible for Literacy and Elementary curriculum within Chinook School Division. She was a lead provincially on the development of Sask. Reads and Sask. Reads for Admin. She was also a Superintendent for 3 years and is currently a Deputy Director for Chinook and the co-leader on the Teaching and Assessment Priority Action of the Provincial Education Plan.

Kathy is married and lives with her husband in Swift Current. She is a mom to two grown daughters. She enjoys golf, hiking, travel, reading and spending time with her 89-year-old dad.



Name: Jared Wipf

Biography:

Jared has taught a variety of grade levels in several schools within Chinook over the last 10 years. He was a principal at Stewart Valley School. He served as vice principal and is currently the principal at Central School in Swift Current.

Jared has a love of learning and is committed to continuous improvement in several areas, family engagement being one. He attended the Walk Alongside event with Debbie Pushor last Spring and has implemented several family engagement strategies that are making a difference in his school.

He is a member of the Chinook Family Engagement Committee this year and will lead our other administrators in implementing new ideas in Family engagement. He resides in Swift Current with his wife and two young children.