

Form C

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

I grew up in a small town in Pennsylvania. I was able to participate in multiple varsity sports and was recognized as Most Valuable Swimmer of the swim team and received the most points on the track team. I went to Penn State for computer science but quickly learned I wanted to move more and work with kids. I switched my major to Exercise and Sport Science with an emphasis on teaching. After graduating, I needed a full time job to support a wife and son. I was fortunate to be hired by Baltimore City Public Schools. I had a rough first year transitioning to an urban environment but I was able to build great relationships with the students, colleagues, and administrators. I was quickly given leadership responsibilities and administrative duties. I started providing professional development on health topics and integrating technology into teaching. I wrote grants and was able to build an infrastructure and computer labs that served the school for many years.

I was fortunate enough to teach all six and eighth graders at Robert Poole Middle School in Baltimore, Maryland. One task the eighth grade team was responsible for was eighth grade graduation. I always enjoyed this day because we were able to say goodbye and good luck to all the students. One year we had a troubled student that barely made it through sixth grade. We supported and worked with her all three years in order to make sure she went to the high school she wanted to go to. We were all proud of her on graduation day. This student came up to me and put her hand up and said, "I know, I know, I know. I'm going to eat healthy, stay away from those bad things, and exercise." She then gave me a hug and said, "thank you." We do what we do because of the students, because there are moments that as teachers we hold onto through everything.

I transitioned into central office roles at the local and state level. While doing these jobs, I continued to build my leadership skills while participating on multiple committees. I worked with state legislators on bills that impacted instruction and student health. I reviewed school system master plans that guided the entire local education agency. All while continuing to provide professional development to local leaders and teachers.

As I professionally moved through different positions, my family was supporting me. I have been happily married for 24 years and have two sons. My wife works for Bank of America and is lucky to work from home. I am fortunate to enjoy a home cooked meal every night. My job is to get groceries and clean while my wife plans the meals and cooks. After 24 years together, we split many of our tasks. Especially since our sons are out of the house. My oldest son graduated from college in 2016 and now lives in Pittsburgh, PA. My other son is a sophomore at Penn State University, where my wife and I met. We live in a small community in Manchester, Maryland where we have provided our sons with a loving and supportive environment. I am blessed with the wonderful family I have.