

Colleagues that provided letters of recommendation for Roger Jackson said, *“Roger is a fierce advocate for health and physical education who uses his passion and leadership skills to advance the profession.”*, and, *“Very few can match Roger’s reputation as a leader of character. He has the courage to make a tough decision and the humility to listen to others. Roger is both passionate and articulate about our “why”.”*

Roger is a life-long Michigan resident who has dedicated his entire career to the advancement of comprehensive health and physical education programs.

He started his career in Physical Education over 4 decades ago when he enrolled at Eastern Michigan University and met his mentor, Dr. Eric Pedersen. It was Dr. Pedersen, and the outstanding PE faculty at EMU, that inspired him to not just be a teacher, but to learn from all experiences that would come his way, get involved outside the classroom, and do not shy away from being a leader when it is needed.

Teaching and coaching in South Lyon, Michigan for 31 years, Roger gained experience in instruction and leadership that helped prepare him for the next chapter in his life as a university instructor, college athletic director and leader of professional associations.

In 2008, he was offered the opportunity to be Executive Director of the Michigan Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (MAHPERD), which is now SHAPE Michigan. He strongly feels this gave him an opportunity to not only “Pay it Forward”, but also to “Pay Back” the profession that gave him such a rewarding life.

His passion to actively advocate for all aspects of our profession is well documented. At the state and local level, he has organized and presented at workshops, conventions, school district in-service sessions, and served as a resource for teachers and administrators. For a decade, he served on the executive committee and chaired the Education Policy Action Team for the Health Kids, Healthy Michigan Coalition. Roger was also asked to serve on state committees to re-write the physical education and health standards, provide input for inclusion of health and physical education in the state plan to implement ESSA, and was on the committee put together to have input on the LGBTQ policy that was submitted to the Michigan State Board of Education.

On the national level, Roger has participated in every Speak Out! Day sponsored by NASPE, AAHPERD, and SHAPE America. He served as the chair of the NASPE Public Policy Advisory Committee, and in what he considers one of the greatest honors he has ever received, the members of the Society for Association Management (SAM), the professional organization for all of the state Executive Directors, selected him to serve a term as the SAM Chair. He has also written articles and presented on multiple topics at the state and national levels, including how to create coalitions and partnerships to advance policy change.

Currently, he is an adjunct professor in the PETE program at Wayne State University.