

Race to the Top Team Bios

Teresa MacCartney – Race to the Top Implementation Director

E-Mail: tmaccartney@doe.k12.ga.us

Teresa MacCartney began her career in the Office of Planning and Budget in 2001. She left in 2003 to become the senior policy adviser for budget and government affairs at the Georgia Student Finance Commission. She returned to OPB in 2005 as director of the education division and was promoted to Deputy Director in 2010. While at OPB, she was the state lead for the Federal Stabilization and Education Jobs programs and provided oversight for the divisions of technology and administration. She currently is the Implementation Director for the Race to the Top program.

She and her husband, Andrew, live in Marietta with their two children Brooke and William.

Sylvia Hooker - Deputy Superintendent for School Turnaround

E-mail: shooker@doe.k12.ga.us

Sylvia Christine Hooker is a veteran of 26 years in the field of education obtaining her Education Specialist Degree at Central Connecticut State University. Whether working as a gifted teacher in a high performing school or impacting student achievement in the poorest of schools, Ms. Hooker's focus has always been on the child. After significant work with alternative programs in Georgia, she was tapped by GA's Leadership Institute for School Improvement (GLISI), working as a performance consultant assisting over forty-five school districts with their school improvement plans. Ms. Hooker has received numerous awards and recognitions: Honorable Mention in her first year of teaching from **Teacher Magazine**, **Teacher of the Year by national sororities**, **The Concerned Adult for the Children of Hartford Award (CATCH)**, **Martin Luther King Service Award** and others.

She is a consummate learner demonstrated by: completing the GSSA Superintendent's Professional Development Training, Partnership for Excellence in Education Policy Program, and appointment to Georgia's Professional Standards Commission. She has been a national speaker and presenter, for **SACS/CASI**, **NASSP**, **NMSA**, **National Youth at Risk** and various civic and numerous community groups.

Clara Keith – Associate Superintendent of Implementation

E-Mail: ckeith@doe.k12.ga.us

Clara joined the Race to the Top team as the Associate Superintendent of Implementation. Her involvement in the field of Education ranges from the classroom, the local community, and positions at the US and Georgia Departments of Education. Clara's vast experience and knowledge working with federal programs and school improvement will help to ensure that Race to the Top Georgia is implemented efficiently and effectively.

Clara has spent a great deal of her adult life working to improve student achievement for Georgia's neediest children. While serving at the Georgia Department of Education, Clara has proven to be a results oriented professional educator with success in program planning, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. She held a number of leadership positions ranging from: Deputy Superintendent (Office of Policy and External Affairs), Associate Superintendent (Federal Programs), and other DOE departments (Student Learning and Achievement, Educational Technology, and School Improvement).

Clara believes that she has the best of all possible worlds as she lives close enough to all the wonderful activities and diverse culture the city of Atlanta has to offer. Although she lives in metro Atlanta, she still has an opportunity to maintain her roots in Meriwether County. She relishes in the opportunity to share stories about growing up in a large family in rural Georgia and having the support of parents who strongly valued education for their children.

Kathie Wood – Race to the Top Research Specialist

E-Mail: kwood@doe.k12.ga.us

Kathie Wood brings her sixteen years of teaching and classroom experience to the Race to the Top Team. She taught Language Arts and Reading at Marietta Middle School from 1989 – 1996 and again from 2002 – 2010. Kathie took a brief break from the classroom to help raise her two children (Katie and Hunter). In 2009, she was a finalist for Georgia Teacher of the Year.

Kathie has a passion for reading and helping students improve their reading skills. As an experienced and effective teacher, her role will focus on the positive impact of Teachers on Student achievement in the classroom.

Jon Rogers – Race to the Top Communications Director

E-Mail: jonrogers@gadoe.org

Jon Rogers joined the Race to the Top team after serving over two years as the Chief of Staff for the Georgia Senate Majority leader. His former position included a variety of administrative and communication responsibilities, which included Press Releases, Newsletters, scheduling Interviews, social media, website content, and more. Prior to his work at the Georgia Capitol, Jon worked for more than four years in the Public Policy arena for a state organization in Florida and a national organization in Colorado.

He and his wife, Monica, live in Woodstock, GA with their five children Wes, Susanna, Brigham, Rebekah, and Lydia.