



**Jennifer Brennan, President**

Overwhelmed. Sad. Powerless. These are the emotions I felt when my son received his first IEP in first grade; due to his challenging behaviors the school wanted to send him to a more restrictive setting. At the time, I was unaware of IN\*SOURCE and navigated the journey alone with my husband. My son has autism and is now a thriving 17 year old student planning for college. He inspired me to leave my corporate position 10 years ago, obtain my Master's Degree from Purdue University, and begin a second career in special education. Now, as a Special Education Specialist at a large public school, I advocate for all students, families, and staff who navigate the special education process knowing what is possible when we all partner together.

**Clara Mann, Vice President**

Clara joined the IN\*SOURCE team in 2017. Working with IN\*SOURCE was a natural connection as she has spent the past 25 years working with First Steps, Indiana's early intervention system for children birth to three years of age. Transitioning children from early intervention to their public school experience is a vital part of the First Steps program. Ensuring families have a positive experience and continued support through their journey is vital. Clara holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in Business Administration.



**Randy Sowers, Treasurer**

Sometimes being in the right place at the right time pays benefits. After retiring from a career as a CPA and Accountant, I decided to work part-time to keep me involved in the business world. One such stop led me to IN\*SOURCE. While working at IN\*SOURCE, I learned about their efforts to help families with children of various disabilities manage the educational process. This resonated with me as I have a stepson with Down syndrome. I deeply appreciate IN\*SOURCE's mission and jumped at the opportunity to be part of the board.

**Kristen Dauss, MD, FAPA, Secretary**

Dr. Kristen Dauss became part of the IN\*SOURCE Board of Directors in 2020 fueled by a passion to ensure all children have access to quality education. When growing up, her grandfather, a man who grew up in an era of segregation, instilled in her the importance of an education. Reminding her "get an education, it is something no one can ever take away". This lesson stuck as she went on to obtain a bachelor's degree from Indiana University and her medical degree from Morehouse School of Medicine. She completed triple-board residency in general pediatrics, general psychiatry, and child adolescent psychiatry. She is board certified in general and child and adolescent psychiatry. Her experience allows the unique ability to examine systems of care and treat the whole person. In examining such systems, she noticed a pattern of excessive school discipline policies especially in students of color, with disabilities and/or economically disadvantaged. So she became more committed to advocating for all students and families in an effort to ensure their voices are heard. Dr. Dauss resides in Indianapolis with her husband and their three children.





**Dr. Kelly J. Grillo**

An award-winning educator in Special Education and Education Justice for over two decades, Dr. Grillo is currently a coordinator of Special Education Services for Cooperative School Services. She has served as a member of a Florida State oversight Committee, the Florida Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) State board and the Education Director of Mills Aviation Charities. Dr. Grillo is on the Leadership Development Committee for the International Council for Exceptional Children, a board member of Indiana Branch of the International Dyslexia Association. She is the International Teacher CEC of the Year 2020. Other awards include the 2019 International Division of Learning Disabilities Teacher of the Year, 2018 Florida CEC Teacher of Year. Having been a student with a significant learning difference, Dr. Grillo says a career highlight is being a nominee as a STEM Champion for Change. Dr. Grillo is a national advocate for persons with learning disabilities so

that she herself can accept her own disability and create a pathway to literacy for people with dyslexia in her late mother's name, Gloria J. Grillo, who died a non-reader with dyslexia. Follow her on Twitter @kellygrillo.

### **Vendetta Gutshall**

All children deserve the opportunity to learn and to be taught based on their unique needs. It has been my goal to make this possible and to assist them in finding appropriate educational services. I began my career as a special education teacher for 15 years, then four years in general education as an assistant principal at the high school level. The last 19 years of my career, I was a Director of Special Education, adjunct professor at IPFW, President of the Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education and was honored to serve on various state committees. I have always had a desire to work closely with parents as they seek to find the most appropriate services for their children. Currently, I am an Educational Consultant for Ft. Wayne Neuropsychology where I assist parents as they work with the educational setting to identify the programs, curriculum, educational services and strategies that work best for their child.



**Liz Johnson**

I learned at a young age the importance of advocacy. I watched my mom, a special education administrator herself, fight an uphill battle for my two younger siblings so that they might receive the services and accommodations that they needed in order to be successful despite their learning disabilities. This is what drew me to IN\*SOURCE. I have a background in nonprofit fundraising and development and hope to lend these skills to this amazing organization. As a mother of four children myself, I can think of nothing more powerful than helping to empower families to help their kids be happy, healthy, and successful!



**Jolly Piersall**

A special educator for over 35 years, Jolly is currently the Director of the Indiana IEP Resource Center (IEPRC) which is a federally funded project administered by Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) through Indiana State University Blumberg Center. Ms. Piersall is considered a leader in special education policy and procedures, special education law, and has been instrumental in collaborating with multiple statewide organizations to bring needed resources to Indiana. Ms. Piersall also serves on the ESSA Core Team at IDOE Office of Special Education, MTSS Core Team at IDOE School Improvement, The ARC of Indiana's Education Committee, and co-chair for the

Program Advisory Committee for the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) National Convention.

**Dr. Cristina Santamaría Graff**

Assistant Professor of Special Education, Urban Teacher Education at IUPUI, she has expertise in bilingual/multicultural special education and applies her skills in working with Latinx immigrant families of children with disabilities in family-centered projects. Currently, Cristina is one of the editors for *Multiple Voices: Disability, Race and Language Intersections in Special Education* which is the journal affiliated with the Council for Exceptional Children's Division for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners (DDEL). She is a recipient of several community-engaged awards affiliated with her implementation of FAF approaches in her teaching and research including the Ernest A. Lynton Scholarship of Engagement Award (2019), American Educational Research Association (AERA) award for Exemplary Contributions to Practice-Engaged Research (2019), the Brian Douglas Hiltunen Award for Community-Engaged Research (2019), and the Charles R. Bantz Chancellor's Community Scholar Award (2018).



**Steve Shaw**

I joined the board shortly after our very first experience with the public school system. We luckily found IN\*SOURCE through a referral. My hope and inspiration is to raise awareness of who we are and what we can do today and into the future. Serving the families of Indiana and individuals with disabilities will help shape the future of the children and support their families in every way we need.