

## **Biographies of Kentucky Board of Education Members**

**At-Large – Position is Vacant at this time**

**Supreme Court District 7 – Position is Vacant at this time**

### **Judith H. Gibbons**

Judith H. Gibbons of Lakeside Park is a retired vice president of a professional career management firm. She holds a bachelor of science degree from the University of Florida and has a long history of involvement in education initiatives. As a community volunteer, her focus has been on promoting education excellence and implementing stronger collaboration between the business and education communities. Judy is a graduate of Leadership Northern Kentucky and serves on the Northern Kentucky University Foundation, Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Education Alliance and Education Policy committees, the Northern Kentucky Education Action Team and the Northern Kentucky Education Council. She and her husband, Mike, have three children and three grandchildren.

### **Billy Harper**

Billy Harper is a graduate of Heath High School and the University of Kentucky with a degree in engineering. Billy serves as president of Harper Industries Inc., a construction holding company with subsidiaries in Kentucky and Tennessee. He serves on the University of Kentucky Mechanical Engineering Advisory Council and helped establish the Paducah Campus Engineering Program. Billy has served on state and national boards for the Council of Economic Education, the Governor's Scholars Program and the McCracken County Board of Education. Billy is also a professional race car driver competing on the ADRL and NHRA circuits. Billy and his wife, Laura, live in Paducah and have four children.

### **David Karem**

David Karem of Louisville is president of the Louisville Waterfront Development Corporation. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning and a juris doctorate degree from the University of Louisville. For 33 years, David served in the Kentucky General Assembly and for 20+ years on the Southern Regional Education Board (committee chair and treasurer). He is the past chair of the Louisville Science Center's Educational Advisory Board and is a member of the boards of Spalding University and the Louisville Main Street Association. David and his wife, Anne, have two sons, Dr. Jeff Karem and doctoral candidate Andrew Karem, both educated in the Jefferson County school system.

### **Roger L. Marcum**

Roger L. Marcum is executive vice president of St. Catharine College after retiring from 34 years of service as a teacher, principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent in Kentucky public education. A native of London, Roger earned his bachelor's degree from Berea College and his master's from Eastern Kentucky University. He also earned his Rank I and Kentucky superintendent certification from EKU. Active in community

service, Roger recently served as the chair of the Centre Square Committee of the City of Lebanon and for the past 10 years as a member of Marion County/Lebanon Industrial Foundation Board of Directors. He also served as past president of the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents, Kentucky Association of School Administrators, the Kentucky Association of School Councils and the Council for Better Education. Roger and his wife, Bobbie, have two children.

**Jonathan Parrent**

Jonathan Parrent currently serves as dean of student affairs at Madisonville Community College. He earned his bachelor's degree in history from Kentucky Wesleyan College and completed a master of arts in history from Murray State University and a master of arts in higher education administration from the University of Louisville. He is enrolled at the University of Kentucky in the educational leadership doctoral program. Jonathan serves on the Glema Mahr Center for the Arts Advisory Committee and volunteers with the Caldwell County Soccer Association. Jonathan and his wife, Jennifer, live in Princeton and have two children attending the Caldwell County school system, Parker and Jacob.

**Nawanna B. Privett**

Nawanna Barton Privett is facilitator for the Kentucky Education Action Team after retiring as a teacher, principal (including Southern Elementary, a National Blue Ribbon School) and central office director in the Fayette County Public Schools. She served as an early state department distinguished educator, director of the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development, and first state director of the Kentucky Leadership Academy and CEO Superintendents Network. A native of Cumberland, Nawanna earned her bachelor's and master's degrees and Rank I in administration from the University of Kentucky. Currently, she is co-chair of UK Women & Philanthropy, elder at Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church and member of the UK College of Education Board of Advocates, the Partnership for Successful Schools Board and Women Leading Kentucky Board of Directors. Nawanna and her husband, Dr. George Privett, have five children and two grandchildren.

**Brigitte Blom Ramsey**

Brigitte Ramsey of Pendleton County holds a master's degree in public policy from the University of Kentucky and undergraduate degrees in economics and international studies from Northern Kentucky University. She served on the Pendleton County Board of Education for ten years, where she maintained a strong focus on individual academic achievement and establishing educational leadership. Brigitte has worked in various research capacities for Northern Kentucky University, the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, the University of Cincinnati and Kentucky Youth Advocates. Currently, she is working as Associate Manager, Strategic Resources and Public Policy for United Way of Greater Cincinnati. She has four school-age children.

**William L. Twyman**

William L. Twyman is a semi-retired educator and works part-time with Educational Directions of Louisville. He taught math and science mainly in the Glasgow Independent school district and served in administration as a principal and in the central office. He was among the first educator in Kentucky to receive the Milken Educator Award (1993). William did his undergraduate work at Campbellsville University and George Peabody University and earned a master's and a Rank I at Western Kentucky University. He serves on the Western Kentucky University Advisory Board and the Glasgow Community Medical Care Board and is a member of the Glasgow Kiwanis Club. He and his wife, Lou Frances, have four children and seven grandchildren.

**Mary Gwen Wheeler**

Mary Gwen Wheeler of Louisville is interim executive director of 55,000 Degrees, a partnership focused on improving education attainment. She previously served for eight years in Louisville Metro Government as the mayor's senior advisor for Education and Youth and cabinet secretary for Health and Family Services. Mary Gwen spent ten years as a project manager and vice president of Planning and Development with the National Center for Family Literacy. She received a bachelor's degree from Yale University and a master's from Yale's School of Management. Mary Gwen also volunteers her time with the University of Louisville Overseers, the Jefferson County Public Education Foundation and the Yale-China Association. She is married to David A. Jones, Jr. and they have two children.