

Susan L. Smith
Equity Statement

Music education should be available, accessible, and equitable to all students regardless of gender, orientation, or cultural background. I work each day to broaden pre-service teachers' views and challenge them to connect all students. We must continue to guide our colleagues through relevant and strategic professional development, professional publications, and all forms of media. Finding common ground through music and life experiences while embracing and appreciating our educational communities' daily lives and cultures is key to making genuine connections. It is imperative that students see teachers and mentors of varying backgrounds and genders, encouraging them to forecast themselves in those roles. I believe colleges/universities, associations, and school districts must be purposeful in recruiting and encouraging potential leaders of all backgrounds. We weave a brighter musical fabric for our future by valuing the threads of diversity and embracing the voices of all.