

# Biographical Information Of Pamela (Pam) A. Abston

Serving has been the destiny of my entire life. I was raised that the family and the community were the focus of life. My grandparents raised a garden that often fed tens of families during the Depression, mining strikes and general hard times for many. My mother dedicated herself to service in the church, youth organizations, senior communities and children. My upbringing taught me that serving is the essence of life.

Along that vein, I have found the most joy in life is serving the needs of others. Teaching has been my passion for forty years and I find the plight of teachers to be the apex of both community and personal life change. When teachers and educational staff are treated with dignity and respect, they are inspired instead of going the extra mile to go the extra fathom. Educational staff are the cog of productive society, and they must be recognized for their selfless dedication to improving the world.

Some of my most rewarding moments have been seeing students shine in the presence of a compassionate, exuberant educator. In order for the electricity of knowledge to flow, there must be a climate of safety, order and protection upon which to build true relationships that transcend the classroom and time, but that tie the educator to the successes of those students into perpetuity.

To be their best, teachers must have fair wages; they must have safe and orderly working environments; and they must be respected

for their skills and knowledge that they willingly share. While there are no giants to slay, there are mountains to climb. I ask that you allow me to navigate those mountains with you so that they will no longer be mountains, but attained heights.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions at [paabston@frontier.com](mailto:paabston@frontier.com). **I would appreciate your trust and support in allowing me to continue to serve on your WCTA Board of Directors.**

### ***Educational Experience***

- Washington County teacher and WCTA member since 2016
- Special Education Director (WV)-retired
- Supervisor/principal in off-site alternative placements for youth
- Director of Staff Development, Alternative Education, and Supervisor of School Leaders
- Principal of a public, comprehensive high school/middle school (7-12) including a career component
- Principal of a career-technical high school and STEM-focused center
- State-level Coordinator for educator licensure
- State-level Coordinator for juvenile facilities academic programs
- West Virginia State GED Administrator and GED Testing Accommodations administrator
- Classroom teacher-AP English Language, English, social studies, home-health instructor, summer school instructor, local GED administrator, adult education instructor, and curriculum writer

### ***Leadership Roles/Awards***

- WCTA High School-at-Large Board Member (2022-2023)
- WCTA Negotiations Committee Member (2021-2023)
- Assessment Committee Member (WCTA/WCPS) (2020)
- WCTA Building Representative (2019-2023)
- International GED Administrator of the Year (c. 2001)
- Putnam County Education Association (WVEA/NEA) Middle School Vice-President (1992-1994)
- PCEA PAC Treasurer (1992-1994)
- Faculty Senate Chair of 70 plus faculty members (c. 1992-1993)
- WVEA Young Leader and/or State Delegate (1990-1994)
- American Federation of Teachers (AFT) liaison to West Virginia Legislative Oversight Outreach to draft Faculty Senate Law and to the *Putnam Picket* (teacher-produced newsletter during teacher work stoppage)
- Ashland Coal Teacher of the Year nominee (c. 1989)

### ***Education***

ABD—Marshall University/West Virginia University—Educational Leadership/Curriculum and Instruction

Ed.S.--Marshall University/West Virginia University—Educational Leadership/Curriculum and Instruction/Alternative Ed.

M.A.--Marshall University/WVCOGS—Educational Leadership/Curriculum and Instruction

B.A.--Marshall University—English and Social Studies