

2023-2024

Transportation

Security



Nutrition



Custodial

SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP OFFICE



**SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**

SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP OFFICE (SUPO)

The Saginaw Valley State University Board of Control established the charter school office (SUPO) in 1995. With modest beginnings, the office has grown to serve over 10,000 students in over 20 academies across the state of Michigan. Our motto is “Student success is our passion.” The office supports our schools by providing professional development, board training opportunities, teacher scholarships, and student scholarships for students that attend SVSU after graduation from an SVSU authorized school. See the Cardinal Partnership Program for more information.

In June 2017, SUPO received Charter School Authorizer Accreditation from AdvancEd. An additional five years was awarded by Cognia (formerly AdvancEd) in June 2022.

Our mission is to promote accessible quality education that empowers all participants. We believe that access to quality education is empowerment for all. A quality education welcomes all, fosters creativity, and entitles learners to grow into their most authentic selves. As every difference is an asset, education should always be a celebration of diverse views and people. This purpose is our guide and commitment to our education stakeholders. SUPO will always build a bigger table to ensure everyone has a seat at it because together we are better.

Our office serves as the link between our educational stakeholders and their opportunities for success; we aspire to authorize quality Public School Academies. Our core values are collaboration and innovation with stakeholders, continuous improvement of organizational initiatives, compliance and transparency, academic achievement, and diversity, ethics, and stewardship.

SUPO STAFF



Dr. David A. Lewis – Director

Candice Casey – Director of Operations

Dawn Gillespie – Administrative Assistant

Chantra Williams – School Improvement/
Student Initiatives Specialist

George Copeland – School Improvement
Specialist: Student/Community Outreach

Cathy Malotka – Quality/Curriculum Specialist

Doug Newcombe – Field Representative

Ken Tesauro – Field Representative

Dr. Sara Holding – Special Ed Compliance Specialist

Jennifer Peña – Administrative Secretary

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE FOLLOWING
Outstanding
EMPLOYEES SELECTED BY
THEIR
SCHOOLS/DISTRICTS!**

Purpose Statement:

*To honor the unique contributions and achievements
of school support staff.*

Thank you for your service and commitment.

Michael Ray Williams, Sr.

For thirteen years, Mr. Michael Williams has devoted himself to ensuring Chandler Park Academy maintains a safe learning environment. Handling various challenging situations with students and parents, he prioritizes the safety of staff and students above all else. Collaborating with parents, students, administration, and the local police, his role extends beyond typical hours to maintain security during extracurriculars and after dismissal. Responsible for hiring, training, and scheduling the campus safety team, he monitors security footage, ensures parking lot safety, and orders security equipment year-round. Mr. Williams maintains composure in addressing upset parents, school threats, and physical altercations, all while infusing moments of levity with his vibrant personality. His dedication is evident in his role as an ALICE school safety trainer, leading staff training to prepare for emergencies amidst rising school violence. Mr. Williams is indispensable in ensuring Chandler Park Academy's safety and well-being.

CAMPUS SAFETY SUPERVISOR—13 YEARS



Liliana Lupercio

Liliana Lupercio serves as the Lunch Coordinator at César Chávez Academy Lower Elementary, and her dedication and hard work have earned her the title of Employee of the Year. Her efficiency in managing all facets of her role is truly commendable. Liliana's advocacy for providing students with healthy and appealing meals is inspiring, as is her attention to maintaining a clean and seasonally decorated lunch area.

Her commitment to keeping thorough records, taking initiative, and being self-sufficient has a significant impact on the success of the lunch program. With Liliana's capable hands overseeing the program, we have full confidence that it is in excellent shape.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Liliana Lupercio for her unwavering dedication and contributions. Her efforts ensure that students not only receive nourishing meals but also enjoy a pleasant dining environment. Liliana's exemplary work ethic and commitment to excellence set a high standard for all employees to follow.

LUNCH COORDINATOR—13 YEARS

Oleta Birkbeck

Oleta has significantly improved the quality of food and equipment at Flat River, even amidst the challenges posed by the COVID pandemic. Her efforts have resulted in increased student participation in both breakfast and lunch programs. Despite fluctuations in the food service budget, Oleta has demonstrated adept management, ensuring fiscal responsibility year after year. Her diligence in budget preparation and execution has led to effective financial management, even maintaining excess fund balance at times.

Upon her arrival at Flat River, Oleta brought valuable commercial kitchen experience, although she initially lacked familiarity with school food programs. However, she has consistently sought knowledge from various sources, including MDE, management, and administration, demonstrating a strong commitment to learning and improvement. Her primary goal remains ensuring that students receive nutritious meals while at school, driving her ongoing efforts to enhance the food service programs. Oleta's dedication to providing quality meals underscores her invaluable contribution to the well-being of students at Flat River. **FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR—4 YEARS**



FLAT RIVER ACADEMY



PONTIAC ACADEMY
FOR EXCELLENCE

Susan Holston

Ms. Susan Holston's impact at Pontiac Academy for Excellence is profound. Her unwavering commitment to work every day sets a standard of dedication. Furthermore, she fosters genuine connections with both parents and students, providing a safe space for them to confide in her. Recently, her prompt action in reporting a concerning situation allowed for swift intervention and resolution, showcasing her proactive approach to student welfare.

Ms. Sue's dedication extends beyond her daily duties. She takes initiative to address bus issues, utilizing resources like YouTube to troubleshoot problems efficiently. Additionally, her vigilance in checking on buses during off-hours demonstrates her commitment to safeguarding school property.

Ms. Sue's initiative to implement quarterly bus servicing has proven invaluable. This proactive measure not only prevents breakdowns but also ensures uninterrupted transportation for our students, particularly those who rely heavily on our services.

Ms. Susan Holston's contributions exemplify her dedication to the well-being and safety of the PAE community. **BUS DRIVER —7 YEARS**



Melissa Porter

When I first joined Faxon, there was no food program for our scholars, leaving families to send their children with bagged lunches regardless of their circumstances. Ms. Porter, a dedicated parent, volunteered her time to assist in finding a suitable food provider, prioritizing nutritious options over convenience. Despite the challenge of locating a company that met our standards, her persistence paid off, and we successfully secured one.

Since our school lacks an official lunchroom, Ms. Porter and her mother creatively repurposed cabinets, sewing covers and purchasing signage to create a welcoming space. They also develop weekly menus to promote a positive and healthy eating environment for our families.

Ms. Porter's commitment doesn't end there. After lunch, she remains at the school, offering her assistance with various tasks every single day without fail. Her unwavering dedication

and selflessness greatly contribute to the supportive community at Faxon Academy.

NUTRITIONIST—2 YEARS

Mike Vazquez

Mr. Vazquez, affectionately known as Coach Mike, brings a wealth of expertise and dedication to his role on our security team at César Chávez Academy High School. Beyond his security duties, Coach Mike's background in coaching shines through as he consistently goes above and beyond, supporting various areas such as building maintenance and beautification. Additionally, he serves as the CCA District Transportation Coordinator, showcasing his versatility and commitment to the school community.

Coach Mike's approach to student behavior is mentorship-driven, drawing upon his coaching background to help students realize their potential. He works closely with students and families to address behavioral, academic, and social-emotional challenges, ensuring they are on the right path to success.

In addition to his primary responsibilities, Coach Mike is proactive in identifying areas for improvement within the school building, whether it's clearing snow or scheduling transportation for field trips. His approachability and dedication make him a valuable mentor for both students and staff alike, fostering a supportive environment where everyone feels comfortable seeking guidance and support. Coach Mike's multifaceted contributions significantly enhance the safety, well-being, and overall positivity of our school community at CCAHS. **SECURITY/SAFETY—6 YEARS**





Kimberly Griffin

Ms. Griffin is a true advocate for health and wellness at Saginaw Preparatory Academy, ensuring students are nourished with balanced meals and considering their preferences when creating menus. Her efforts extend beyond providing meals, as she cultivates positive attitudes toward healthy eating from a young age. Ms. Griffin's dedication transcends the cafeteria, impacting both students and staff positively.

One notable initiative she started is the fruit and vegetable program, providing students with wholesome snacks to take home several days a week throughout the school year. This initiative not only encourages healthy snacking but also boosts the consumption of fresh produce among students. Ms. Griffin's commitment to fostering healthy eating habits and providing access to nutritious options demonstrates her unwavering dedication to promoting well-being within our school community.

FOOD SERVICE MANAGER—13 YEARS

Karen Kielbas

Karen Kielbas, our Busing Coordinator at Landmark Academy, plays a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth operation of our transportation system. She works closely with our contracted company and drivers, ensuring compliance with regulations and addressing any concerns promptly. Karen builds strong relationships with staff and students to gather honest feedback and even rides the bus when needed to observe firsthand.

Her dedication to continuous improvement is evident in her efforts to reorganize routes and bus stops to accommodate more students, ensuring transportation availability to as many as possible. Karen's exceptional problem-solving skills and attention to detail have proven invaluable, enabling her to identify and address issues effectively.

Karen's positive attitude and inclusive approach create a supportive work environment, making her presence an asset to our school community. She is highly respected and appreciated for her leadership and dedication to student safety. Karen Kielbas' tireless commitment to her role exemplifies her as an indispensable member of our team at Landmark Academy. **TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR—9 YEARS**





Janette (Nette) Wood

Nette's dedication to the Waterford Montessori Academy community goes above and beyond her role as a custodian. She willingly comes in early or stays late to assist with special projects, from working with utility companies to handling emergencies like boiler issues or snowstorms. Nette actively involves herself with the children, encouraging them to take responsibility for their environment by participating in cleanup efforts.

Ms. Wood provides invaluable support to students who may be having a difficult day, offering a listening ear and a positive presence. Her problem-solving skills are evident as she finds creative solutions to meet specific needs, whether it's sourcing necessary supplies or organizing resources efficiently.

Nette's positive attitude and jovial engagement with both students and staff make her a cherished member of our community. Her hard work and kindness leave a lasting impact on everyone she interacts with, earning her admiration and gratitude from students and colleagues alike. **CUSTODIAN—2 YEARS**

Scott Pike

Mr. Scott Pike, affectionately known as Spike, plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and security of our school community at Landmark Academy. His tireless dedication is evident as he patrols the campus, meticulously checking entries for secure doors and windows. Spike fearlessly tackles any issues that arise, always prioritizing the safety of our staff and students.

As a retired police officer with a wealth of experience, Spike has made significant contributions to enhancing our security plans and protocols. His attendance at safety and security conferences has led to valuable recommendations, including the implementation of the Centegix system, which has greatly improved our emergency response capabilities.

Beyond his professional expertise, Spike's positive energy and supportive demeanor make him a valued member of our team. He fosters strong relationships with staff, students, and parents, and his presence instills a sense of safety and reassurance throughout our campus. Spike's dedication to our school's safety is unparalleled, and we are grateful for his unwavering commitment to our community.

CAMPUS RESOURCE OFFICER—2 YEARS



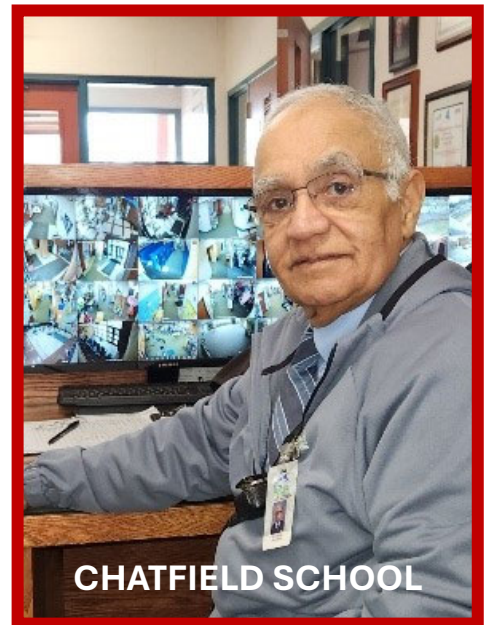
John Gonzales

Mr. John Gonzales not only ensures the safety of Chatfield School but also actively contributes to our school community in various ways. His daily responsibilities include maintaining building and grounds security, monitoring security cameras, and addressing safety concerns across campus. Mr. Gonzales goes above and beyond by supporting students, collaborating with the custodian, and being accessible to parents and staff.

He engages students in meaningful conversations, offering guidance and encouragement to overcome challenges and make positive choices. With his wealth of experiences as a Vietnam War veteran, coach, and Dean of Students, Mr.

Gonzales imparts valuable life lessons to students, helping them navigate their choices and understand consequences.

Mr. Gonzales' early morning presence is appreciated by staff, as he assists with building preparations and fosters positive relationships throughout the school. His rich sense of humor and pleasant demeanor make him approachable, and his diverse background and experiences enrich our school community. Mr. Gonzales' dedication and expertise make him a valued member of Chatfield School. **SCHOOL SAFETY OFFICER—7 YEARS**



Christina Maria Kuraib

Ms. Kuraib, also known as Ms. Chris, serves as the School Meals Coordinator at César Chávez Academy Middle School, ensuring the provision of hot, fresh meals and actively promoting healthy eating habits among students. Her dedication is evident in her early presence at the school, demonstrating a proactive approach to her responsibilities and a genuine commitment to the community's well-being. Ms. Chris goes beyond basic meal provision by focusing on delivering hot and fresh breakfast and lunch daily, emphasizing students' nutritional well-being. Her initiative to partner with non-profits to redistribute unused food prevents wastage and extends the school's resources to benefit the wider community, addressing food insecurity. Ms. Chris' Safe Serve Certification and completion of Civil Rights for School Meals Training highlight her dedication to food safety and equity. Her continuous search for innovative ways to make school meals appealing demonstrates her commitment to providing nourishing options that students look forward to. Ms. Chris' proactive approach and commitment to nutritious meals underscore her dedication to the safety and well-being of the school community.

SCHOOL MEALS COORDINATOR —18 YEARS

Kathleen Miller

Mrs. Kathie Miller embodies dedication and care as a bus driver and transportation manager at Kingsbury for over two decades. Beyond her managerial duties, she personally ensures the safety and comfort of her students, going above and beyond by volunteering her time to train and support other drivers. Her belief in building relationships with students and families fosters a sense of security and cooperation on her bus. Mrs. Miller's commitment extends beyond transportation; she takes initiative to maintain safe environments within school buildings and stays informed on best practices through additional training. Her involvement in school safety discussions showcases her dedication to the community. Notably, her impact is felt deeply by a parent of a child with disabilities, who praises her unwavering support and communication regarding their child's safety and independence. Mrs. Miller's genuine concern for her students' well-being, demonstrated through her actions and heartfelt interactions, makes her a standout employee deserving of recognition and gratitude. **BUS DRIVER/TRANSPORTATION MANAGER—21 YEARS**



Pamela Wilson

Ms. Pamela Wilson exemplifies dedication and care as a pivotal member of our staff, serving as a guardian angel for our school community. From directing traffic to patrolling the campus and assisting with emergency drills, Ms. Wilson is ever-present, ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for all. Her commitment extends beyond her official duties; she is a welcoming presence, fostering relationships with students, staff, and parents alike, building a sense of community within our school. Leading our student safety patrol, she has forged strong connections with our students, earning their trust and respect over the years. Ms. Wilson's friendly demeanor and readiness to listen make her a pillar of support, bringing reassurance and peace of mind to everyone in our school community. Her tireless efforts and caring nature truly make her a guardian angel we deeply appreciate and rely on. **HALL MONITOR—19 YEARS**

**Special Thanks to the
Awards Planning Committee**

Dr. Tamara Barrientos

Dawn Gillespie

Terra Lockett

Cathy Malotka

Chantra Williams

And...

The SVSU Conference & Events Center

The Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Museum



SVSU

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