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Vita
Joseph M. Porto, Ed.D.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Superintendent of Schools

2002-Present

Avoca School District 37
Wilmette, IL

Provide leadership and vision to a high quality, high expectation school district in the north shore suburbs, serving 675 children in two school facilities (K-5th Elementary and 6th-8th Middle with a preschool). Work collaboratively with a dynamic, visionary and high-energy Board of Education. Guide a lighthouse district that provides innovative programs that have attracted educational visitors from around the nation and from foreign countries. Oversee an ambitious long-range strategic plan and an award-winning technology program. Provide leadership for the district-wide Learning Communities Model that drives the district's efforts at continuous improvement of instruction. Facilitate long-range strategic planning and implementation activities in the areas of curriculum and instruction, differentiated instruction, community outreach and organizational accountability. Oversee a \$10.5 million budget.

Superintendent of Schools

1995- 2002

Pleasantdale School District 107
Burr Ridge, IL

Provided leadership and vision to a fast-growing, high quality school district in the western suburbs, serving 700 children in two school facilities (Pre-K-4th Elementary and 5th-8th Middle). Supervised an administrative team consisting of two principals, a business manager and a special education coordinator. Directed efforts in all facets of instructional leadership including curriculum development, technology integration, instructional improvement, student assessment, staff development and parent education. Facilitated long-range strategic planning and implementation activities in the areas of budget, facilities, curriculum and instruction, community outreach and organizational accountability. Oversaw a \$6.5 million balanced budget. Directed facility expansion and renovation planning for one of the fastest growing suburban areas in Cook County.

Director of Instructional Development

1993-1995

North Shore School District 112
(Consolidation of former Highland Park School Districts 107, 108, 111)
Highland Park, IL

Provided leadership in the areas of curriculum design and staff development for an elementary school district of 4000 children. Supervised the Curriculum Development Team, a group of 13 teacher-leaders representing each major subject and program area. The team was responsible for curriculum development, field-based resource support and staff development. Initiated, implemented and evaluated professional development opportunities for a faculty of 500 certified and classified staff. Supervised the Parker Resource Center, a teacher and

community facility for staff development, material production, professional libraries and parental programs that nurture the home-school partnership. Coordinated programs for gifted, bilingual and technology education.

Elementary Principal

1989-1993

Red Oak School

Highland Park School District 108

Highland Park, IL

Provided leadership to a high expectation suburban community with an established quality educational program. Supervised, evaluated and provided instructional leadership for a highly skilled professional staff. Established a collaborative site-based decision-making model that became one of the models for the district. Nurtured a strong home-school partnership through regular communications, participatory decision-making with parents and parent education programs. Created an innovative inclusionary special education delivery model for seriously disabled children. Successfully implemented a collaboratively developed long-range strategic plan for the entire school community.

Elementary Principal

1986-1989

Indian Knoll School

West Chicago School District 33

West Chicago, IL

Provided instructional leadership for a culturally, ethnically and socio-economically diverse school community consisting of 600 children and 45 staff members. Developed, implemented and evaluated a series of instructional innovations that resulted in significant improvements in student achievement scores for three consecutive years. Directed the district health committee, leading to the adoption of a comprehensive health and decision-making program and the establishment of a community parent network. Conducted staff development programs in the areas of health, collaboration, the writing process and drug awareness education.

Assistant Principal

1984-1986

Cooper Junior High

Community Consolidated School District 21

Wheeling, IL

Provided leadership in the areas of student discipline, public relations, student scheduling, extra-curricular activities and plant management for a high-achieving suburban school consisting of 700 students and 60 staff members. Assisted in the supervision and evaluation of certified and classified staff. Developed a school-wide student decision-making model and consistent, child-centered disciplinary policies. Created various opportunities for positive student involvement and school spirit.

Elementary Teacher

1978-1984

Virginia Lake School

Community Consolidated School District 15

Palatine, IL

Taught in self-contained elementary classrooms at grades 5 and 6, and in multi-grade team teaching classrooms in grades 3-5. Initiated cutting edge programs in literature-based reading, process writing, experiential math and cooperative learning. Established an inclusive intramural program. Displayed leadership on building and district committees in writing, math, discipline and social studies.

UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

Part-time Professor

2004-Present

Loyola University
Chicago, IL

Teach in the graduate program for the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. Classes include *Instructional Leadership* for the master's program and *The Superintendent Workshop* for the doctoral program.

EDUCATION

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| Doctor of Education, Educational Administration Northern Illinois University | De Kalb, IL | 1994 |
| Master of Science, Educational Administration Northern Illinois University | De Kalb, IL | 1983 |
| Bachelor of Arts, Elementary Education National College of Education | Evanston, IL | 1978 |
| High School Diploma Brother Rice High School | Chicago, IL | 1974 |

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES

Illinois Type 75 General Administration
Superintendent Endorsement
Illinois Type 03 Teaching, K-9

PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Porto, Joseph M. (2009). Using *Good to Great* to rethink planning. *The Illinois School Board Journal*. 77, 22-26.

“Using the Appreciative Inquiry Model to Clarify Your District’s Purpose and Connect With Your Community.” Seminar conducted at the National School Board Association Annual Conference, San Diego, 2009.

“Moving From *Good to Great*: Using a New Paradigm for Strategic Planning.” Workshop presented at the T + L Technology Conference hosted by the National School Board Association, Seattle, 2008

“The Role of Board Members in Negotiations.” Workshop presented at the Illinois Association of School Boards Joint Conference, Chicago, 2007.

“One-to-One Laptop Initiative in Grades 5-8.” Workshop presented at the T + L Technology Conference hosted by the National School Board Association, Denver, 2005.

OTHER INFORMATION

Born November 22, 1956. Married. Spouse: Terri Porto. Children: Michael J. Porto, 6-4-84, and Emily L. Porto, 12-31-87. Enjoy hiking, bike riding, racquetball and outdoor activities with the family.

REFERENCES

A complete set of credentials, including letters of recommendation, will be sent from Northern Illinois University Career Planning and Placement Center