



Gifted Association of Missouri
P.O. Box 3252, Springfield, MO 65808
www.mogam.org

Our Purpose

1. To create an awareness among parents, educators, and the general public of the characteristics, needs, and educational requirements of the gifted and talented.
2. To support the development of funding of programs for the gifted and talented.
3. To share and disseminate information about existing local, state and federal educational programs for the gifted and talented.
4. To encourage research relating to the identification of gifted and talented children and to assist in the dissemination of the information obtained to educators and the public.

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November 8, 2014

Dear Gifted Association of Missouri Board of Directors:

Welcome to the GAM Board! I am so excited to serve on this board with you for the next two years. By working collaboratively, I've seen the board make a difference over the last 12 years, a trend we will continue to improve on over the next 24 months. We've seen many improvements over the last decade in GAM including an updated and functional website, the ability to take online payment, and the development of new and useful task forces. On the advocacy front, GAM's effective advocacy led to passing legislation that added gifted to the accountability report card for school districts, returned the DESE Director of Gifted Position to full time, and created a statewide Gifted Advisory Council.

Even with all of these positives, fighting for gifted kids continues to be a challenging battle. GAM has had some low points including the loss of categorical funding, the decrease of state approved gifted programs in Missouri, a drop in membership and conference attendance, and a loss of revenue causing a move from a hotel to a university setting for our annual conference.

I truly feel that GAM has a positive future. I only listed the low points in order to establish the reality of where we are. I believe we are on an upswing. For example, our 2014 conference had 50 more attendees than our 2013 conference. Also, since conference we are seeing an increase in membership with approx. 375 current and 75 pending. Below are some milestones I would like to see GAM achieve before my presidency ends:

- Increase conference attendance to over 300 and membership to over 500.
- Pass an incentive based funding system for gifted programs in Missouri.
- Make GAM a recognized name in all Missouri educational settings, public, private, parochial, higher education, and educational committees in our legislature.

By working together, I am confident we can reach these goals and beyond.

Thank you for volunteering your time, energy, expertise and experience for the 46, 619 gifted students in Missouri, you are valued and appreciated. Together, we will continue to make a difference in the field of gifted education in the state of Missouri.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robin E. Lady, GAM President
National Board Certified Teacher