

Jean Hendrickson

Oklahoma A+ Schools Director Emeritus

Speaker, writer, and promoter of building capacity in all communities through their schools, Jean travels the country and the world as a spokesperson and advocate for creative, innovative teaching and learning. Working as a consultant and as *director emeritus* for Oklahoma A+ Schools at the University of Central Oklahoma, Jean consults with a growing body of fellow practitioners who firmly believe that all children are entitled to a rich, full, educational experience that equips them to take their rightful place in the world. She helps coordinate and support the work of the National A+ Schools Consortium (www.nationalaplusschools.org) that actively guides members of the A+ Schools networks.

Jean served as executive director for Oklahoma A+ Schools from 2003-2014 and was responsible for overseeing the development of the network across the state, as well as for participating in the larger, national network and international partnerships. With an extensive research base, OKA+ Schools' model has been cited in such works as Sir Ken Robinson's *The Element*, the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities' landmark report *Reinvesting in Arts Education: Winning America's Future Through Creative Schools*, on the Arts Education Partnership's *ArtsEdSearch* online database, and many others.

Jean was an elementary principal in Oklahoma City for seventeen years, being named National Distinguished Principal for Oklahoma in 2001. She received the State Superintendent's Arts Award for Excellence and the 2003 Medal of Excellence in Administration from the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. Her work has been documented in news reports, articles and books, including Elaine K. McEwan's *10 Traits of Highly Effective Principals*. Jean recently authored a chapter in Robert Kelly's textbook, *Educating for Creativity: A Global Conversation*.

Jean received her Bachelor of Arts in Education from Oklahoma City University, where she graduated summa cum laude and received the "Outstanding Future Teacher" award. She received her Master of Education degree, also summa, from the University of Central Oklahoma. She serves on numerous board and commissions, including as a founding member of Creative Oklahoma, Inc., as a trustee for the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, as an executive board member of Visionary Oklahoma Women, and as a board member for the Harding Fine Arts Academy. She and her husband, Walt reside in Oklahoma City and have two daughters and two granddaughters.