

Paula Coyote Schaaf is moving into her 37<sup>th</sup> year as an educator in the Kansas City, MO public school district. She has been a teacher (6<sup>th</sup> -12 grade), a counselor (K-12 grade), a college advisor, and Director of Guidance for her district. She created the Early College Academy, a partnership between KCPS and Penn Valley Community College, where students left 10<sup>th</sup> grade and became full time college students graduating with their diploma and associates degree concurrently. She has been a city conflict mediator and has created Conflict Mediation teams in elementary and middle schools. While working in elementary school counseling, she created a peer mentoring program, the Peacekeepers, where 5<sup>th</sup> grade students mentored Kindergartners. Paula has held officer positions on the state and local level in several counseling professional organizations and helped write guidance curriculum on the state and local level. She has worked in counselor and teacher education but prefers to work with students and most recently is the Lead School Counselor at East High School, where she works with a very diverse population of 1,200 students. Her educational background includes a BA in Psychology and an MA in Guidance and Counseling (specializing in children) from the University of Missouri – Kansas City. She is also a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Certified LPC Supervisor in Missouri as well as a Certified Trainer/Consultant for NAPPP.