

Dr. Luke Waites
2024 Excellence in Education Award



Michelle Keiper

As a classroom teacher Michelle struggled to locate effective resources for her son, a struggling reader with dyslexia. In 2013, Michelle founded Decoding Dyslexia Oklahoma to bring parents and teachers together to raise awareness for dyslexia, empower parents through education to advocate for their children, and impact policy changes to improve resources for students with dyslexia in our schools. As a parent advocate poised with a teaching background, Michelle has served in several stakeholder advisory roles through the Oklahoma State Department of Education and the Oklahoma Legislature; effectively bringing about change in policy through legislation and developing statewide initiatives for best-practice guidance and professional development opportunities. In addition to continuing the work in Oklahoma, Michelle now also serves in Education and Outreach for the Center for Reading at Pittsburg State University in Kansas. Michelle has learned it is when parents and educators collaborate in a stakeholder process meaningful change can happen which will benefit all students in the classroom, including those with dyslexia.

BS Elementary Education, The University of Akron, Akron, Ohio

Parent of a student with dyslexia

Decoding Dyslexia OK, Founder and State Leader

Oklahoma State Department of Education IDEA-B Advisory Panel, Chair

Oklahoma Dyslexia and Education Task Force, Chair

The Reading League Oklahoma, Founding Board Member

International Dyslexia Association Perspectives Editorial Board

Center for Reading at Pittsburg State University, Education and Outreach