

Welcoming Jobi Lawrence!

We are delighted to announce that Jobi Lawrence will become ARCC Associate Director and Kentucky State Coordinator, effective March 19. Reflecting on her new role, Dr. Lawrence said: "I am honored to be joining the ARCC to provide support and technical assistance to our colleagues in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. I have served as an on-call specialist for the ARCC for the past two years and have been so impressed by the depth and breadth of expertise in the ARCC team. I look forward to our continued collaboration in my new role and to my increased connection with state education agency leaders."

Dr. Lawrence has more than 25 years of experience working with English language learners and at-risk populations—through program administration, evaluation, and implementation—with educators across the state of Iowa and nationwide. She most recently served as Director of Title III and Education Program Consultant for the Iowa Department of Education. She is also the Chief Executive officer, Senior Consultant, and Grant Writer for Kids Count and Read Too (KCR2) Educational Consulting. Previously employed by William Penn University, she served as a tenured Associate Professor of Education, Chair of the Graduate Programs in Education, and Director of three National Professional Development Grant programs (Project Power Up, Project Impact, and Project Teach).

In earlier capacities, Dr. Lawrence taught English as a second language (ESL) for grades K-12 and served on the grant-writing committee for Muscatine Community Schools. Prior to her teaching assignment in Muscatine, she taught ESL and implemented a program for gifted bilingual students at Columbus Community Schools.

Her professional work has appeared in such publications as *Common Core and ELLs/Emergent Bilinguals: A Guide for All Educators*, *NABE News*, *Distance Education: Bridging the Equity Gap*, and *International Diversity in Organizations Journal*. Her work has been honored with awards from the University of Iowa, Baylor University, and the Iowa Culture and Language Conference. She earned an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Phoenix.

In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her three sons and their mini Australian Shepherd.