



ERIC KNOST

Dr. Eric “DK” Knost has served 36 years in various educational roles in Missouri and Iowa. He began his career as a music teacher, serving as the band director and color guard director for Windsor High School in Imperial, Missouri. During his time at Windsor, he was inspired by the excitement his students had for their color guard program. This inspiration caused him to expand his interest in the following years when he served as a band director and color guard director for Lafayette High School, and eventually, Marquette High School in St. Louis County.

He recalls what he felt was a lack of local and regional appreciation for the importance of strong guard programs. During his years at Lafayette High School, he was excited to introduce his students to WGI and to bring more awareness to the art of color guard for other band programs in the area. He enjoyed meeting other colleagues from around the state who had a shared interest in advancing winter guard opportunities in Missouri. He enjoyed the excitement his students had for traveling beyond their region to attend WGI events.

He has many fond memories of gathering with others to discuss the possibility of creating a regional circuit, and he even recalls the specific conversation about choosing the name, MCCGA. With the help of choreographer and friend, Chad Duggan, his guards experienced much success and helped create a new standard for color guard in the St. Louis region. Although it was short-lived, in 1996 Eric also created Paramount, the first independent winter guard hailing from the St. Louis area.

Eric’s career expanded, and he eventually served in many educational administrative roles, including 18 years as a superintendent and deputy superintendent. He led three public school districts including the Rockwood and the Mehlville School Districts of St. Louis County, and the Lewis Central Community Schools of Council Bluffs, Iowa. He is currently serving as the Superintendent for Missouri’s Excel Centers, which are adult high schools operated by MERS Goodwill. Eric is known for unifying school districts and their communities around creating successful experiences for all students, staff and families. He has always practiced with the belief that if we create environments where people feel extraordinary, then extraordinary results will most certainly follow.

Eric and his wife, Julie, have two daughters, Kaylin and Amy, who are both currently serving as music teachers in Missouri. Eric plans to attempt full retirement at the end of June this year.

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