



TREY ANTONETTI

Trey Antonetti began his color guard journey in 2004 while attending the University of Central Arkansas, joining the Bear Marching Band Color Guard as a sophomore. Wanting to continue performing beyond the fall season, Trey filled a mid-season vacancy the following winter with Sarajevo, the only independent winter guard in Arkansas at the time. That season marked his first experience with the Mid-Continent Color Guard Association and the larger world of winter guard competition. Sarajevo would go on to represent both MCCGA and the state of Arkansas as a finalist in the WGI Independent A class in 2006, an important milestone as the first time an Arkansas guard appeared in WGI Finals.

Inspired by those early experiences, Trey dedicated himself to the growth of the marching arts in Arkansas. Over the last two decades, he has coached and designed for numerous programs across the state, while investing the majority of his time in building and developing the guard programs at Fayetteville High School and the University of Arkansas Razorback Marching Band. From 2011 through 2024, Trey served as director of the Fayetteville High School Guard program, guiding it through a period of sustained growth and opportunity for student performers. During that time, Fayetteville's winter guards advanced competitively from Scholastic C to Scholastic A, frequently appearing in WGI regional finals and at times fielding as many as four ensembles in a single season.

A strong advocate for expanding opportunities for performers and programs in Arkansas, Trey helped bring MCCGA events to the state in a lasting way. In 2017, Fayetteville hosted the first MCCGA Festival ever held in Arkansas, an event that has continued annually and celebrated its ninth consecutive season of hosting this year. Beyond hosting competitions, Trey has also contributed to MCCGA's organizational leadership, serving in multiple roles including Advisory Board Member, Arkansas Regional Committee Chair, Director of Public Relations, and Director of Education. Through these roles, he has worked to strengthen communication, expand educational resources, and support the continued development of emerging programs throughout the region.

In 2013, Trey co-founded Avant Guard, an independent winter guard created to provide a performance outlet for collegiate-aged performers in Arkansas and the surrounding region. For six seasons, Avant Guard offered students from Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma a place to continue performing and growing within the activity after high school. After a six-year hiatus from the independent arena, Avant Guard returned to the competitive stage in 2024 as an affiliate of the University of Arkansas. With support from university faculty and student leadership, the organization once again provides a

creative home where performers in Northwest Arkansas can develop not only as performers, but also as future educators and leaders in the marching arts.

In 2024, Trey transitioned from the classroom and rehearsal field into district leadership, becoming the first Director of Fine Arts for Fayetteville Public Schools. In this role, he supports and advocates for K-12 visual and performing arts programs across the district, continuing his long-standing commitment to ensuring that arts education remains an essential part of every student's educational experience.

Trey's work in the marching arts has always centered on people: building programs, mentoring students, and creating safe, supportive environments where performers and staff can grow.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the many friends, colleagues, and family members who have shared in the journey. Trey would like to thank his parents, who never once treated guard like "flags in a gym"; Carol Stanley and Charlene Mower, who provided a life-changing experience at Sarajevo Winter Guard; the students, alumni, and parents who created the village that is the Fayetteville Guard Program, and the staff and student leadership of Avant Guard for rekindling his love for the activity and for (mostly) gently encouraging Avant's return to the floor.

He would especially like to thank Betsy O'Connor, long-time collaborator, Avant Guard co-founder, and most importantly, best friend, for her unwavering support.

Here's to the next twenty years of the marching arts. The last twenty have truly been an honor!

