

# ADE PHENOMENAL WOMAN

## Dr. Janet Dickinson Superintendent - School for the Deaf



Dr. Janet Dickinson is the Superintendent for Arkansas School for the Deaf. Dr. Dickinson has over 18 years of experience in leading deaf schools, including serving as Superintendent for New York School for the Deaf, Executive Director for Rocky Mountain Deaf School and Coordinator of Curriculum & Assessment for the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind. Experienced as a classroom teacher and principal, Dr. Dickinson has extensive expertise in the areas of effective deaf education leadership, data analysis of deaf students, and continuous improvement of deaf schools. Beyond her role as a deaf school leader, she is also a published author. Dr. Dickinson's book, *Deaf Education: Voice of Children for Inclusion Settings (2008)*, was published by Gallaudet University Press and is considered as foundational in the field of deaf education. Dr. Dickinson holds a Doctorate in Administration and Policy Studies in Education from the University of Pittsburgh, a Master of Arts in Deaf Education from Gallaudet University, and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Friends University.

Dr. Janet Dickinson is the superintendent of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and has truly united us as ONE. She has created a dynamic Administration Team with leaders from all departments across campus and whose voices, experiences, and expertise in their fields are truly heard and respected.

She has created monthly Town Hall meetings with all employees, monthly Spirit rallies with all staff and students, and has created a culture of positivity and encouragement through her Totally Awesome!, Winter Madness, and monthly one-on-one and departmental meetings, just to name a few. She knows staff and students by name and is involved in all aspects of ASD life--especially because she chooses to live on campus! Dr Dickinson has done something remarkable, in my opinion. She has worked tirelessly with Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), the Arkansas government and legislature, state and community agencies, and the Deaf community in an OUTWARD focus, while never neglecting the day-to-day life on a residential campus in an INWARD focus.

Being a female school district superintendent, in a male dominated arena, is a demanding career to say the least.

Dr. Dickinson has worked extensively to improve educational outcomes for K-12 students at Arkansas School for the Deaf, which is admirable, for sure. However, she has also worked to create an Early Childhood Center for Deaf and hard of hearing toddlers, increased services for Birth - five-year-old Deaf and hard of hearing children across the state through Statewide Services, and also expanded services for 18–21-year-old Deaf and hard of hearing recent graduates, as well as job placement services for Deaf and hard of hearing adults. That's a LOT of influence for Deaf and hard of hearing Arkansas across the whole state.

Dr. Dickinson, has really put Arkansas School for the Deaf (ASD) on the radar for ADE. Before transformation and shared services, we were a more stand-alone agency. Coming under the ADE umbrella was a big change for us,. Dr. Janet Dickinson has brought awareness of Deaf and hard of hearing students to the hearts and minds of ADE, and we welcome our ongoing and strengthening partnership.

Dr. Dickinson has been with the Arkansas School for the Deaf since 2015 in the superintendent role.