

JAMES LEWICKI

A.A., B.A., M.S., M.A.

www.jameslewicki.org

505 Cloud Cap Avenue, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
jameslewicki@earthlink.net / 608.632.4752

CURRICULUM VITAE

A nationally recognized leader with expertise in innovative school development, project and place-based learning, and charter school authorizing and governance training.

EDUCATION

Hamline University, St. Paul, MN
Doctoral Studies – Education (2005)

University of Wisconsin – LaCrosse, WI
M.A. Education (1988)

George Williams College, Aurora, IL
M.S. Outdoor Education Administration (1983)

The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA
B.A. Social Sciences, Psychology (1979)

Colorado Mtn. College, Glenwood Springs, CO
A.A. Outdoor Recreation Leadership (1976)

The National Outdoor Leadership School, Lander, WY
Instructor Certification (1975)

EXPERIENCE

2017-Current School Director/Principal

Pagosa Peak Open School (<http://pagosapeakopenschool.org/>)

- School leader of a new place-based project driven K-8 charter school.
- Grass roots founder development and authorized by Archuleta School District.
- Hired all faculty and staff – developed as an educator collaborative.
- Renovated commercial property and grounds into elementary school.
- Implemented Vision with limited capacity and resources.
- 90% of families returned for second year as K-5, growing to K-8. Enrollment full.
- Multi-age learning, Field-based studies, Garden and Farm program, food security teacher with projects serving the food security needs of Archuleta County and PPOS.
- Secured \$200,000+ in grants in addition to CDE charter start-up funding.
- With experienced faculty on board, transitioning to co-leadership model to implement 2019-2020 leadership of the school.

2015-2017 School Director/Principal
Academy of Arts and Knowledge (<https://www.aakelementary.org/>)

- Restored to Performance SPF Rating from Priority Improvement.
- Hiring new high quality staff resulted in 90% staff retention contrasted to 55% staff turnover prior to assuming leadership.
- Restored budget to fiscal health after not meeting TABOR prior to assuming leadership.
- Adoption of new curriculum, schedule, and teacher collaborative to implement vision.
- Sold building and secured new site and lease.
- Transitioned school to shared leadership model of co-directors.
- Secured continuing authorization from Charter School Institute (CSI) after it was within months of closing prior to assuming leadership.

2005-2015 Founder/Senior Consultant
Lewicki Education Consulting (www.jameslewicki.org)

- Lead consultant to create over 100+ new schools -- from urban to rural and elementary to high school -- across 20 states. Start-up, implementation, and dissemination phases. Curriculum, faculty, facility design, governance, and authorizer support.
- Lead consultant in over 1,000 Charter Authorizer, Charter Governance, and Local School Board meetings throughout the country.
- Led full-day training for 30 charter school authorizers in Wisconsin.
- Recognized as a national expert in Project-based and Place-based Learning (<http://www.jameslewicki.org/place-based-learning.html>) along with a new high school pedagogical design called the Interdisciplinary Learning Collaborative. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aM11PG_rag
- Keynote presenter and/or trainer during hundreds of district, state, national, and international conferences.
- Chair of the 2000 National Rural School and Community Trust National Rendezvous, 200 educators and 60 students from 34 states and 100 schools.
- http://www.ruraledu.org/user_uploads/file/rr/rr1_2.pdf
- Leader of the Rural Trust's National Youth Council where 20 high school leaders from a dozen states implemented national rural advocacy and policy initiatives.
- Designed and led several youth leadership regional conferences for hundreds of leaders.
- Conducted 3-day Holistic School Reviews resulting in significant school improvement.
- Wrote and awarded a variety of grants for charter school start-up, implementation, and dissemination -- awarded over 25 million dollars.

2009-2010 National Director
EdVisions Schools, Henderson, MN (www.edvisions.org)

Led coast-to-coast school development efforts through Gates funded national school replication effort. Coordinated several national school coaches to work with EdVisions project-based secondary schools in a dozen states. Full time for a year to support EdVisions, then returned to Lewicki Education Consulting.

1988-2005 Teacher, North Crawford Schools, Soldiers Grove, WI
Self-contained elementary and English middle school teacher.

- 1979-1986 **YMCA Camp Director**
YMCA Career directing Summer Camps and Youth and Family Programs in Olympia, Washington; Maui, Hawaii; and Wausau, WI.
- 1976 **National Outdoor Leadership School Instructor**, Lander, WY
Led 30-day backpacking trips in the Wyoming wilderness.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- 1994 Wisconsin Teacher of the Year Finalist
1994 Senator Herb Kohl \$2,000 Fellowship Award Winner
1992 Crawford County Conservation Teacher of the Year
1987 YMCA World Camp Award

PUBLICATIONS

Book

- To Know the Joy of Work Well Done
Place-based Learning and Sustaining School Communities
http://www.jameslewicki.org/store/p13/To_Know_the_Joy_of_Work_Well_Done.html

Articles

- Designing Quality Place-based Learning Projects
<https://www.edutopia.org/place-based-learning-measures>
- Academic Achievement through Field Studies
<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED459023.pdf>
- Place-based Curriculum Guide for New School Development
<https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED461461>
- Charter Governance Success
http://www.jameslewicki.org/store/p29/Charter_School_Governance_%26_School_Success.html

Videos

- Interdisciplinary Learning Collaborative
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aM11PG_rag
- Place-based, Project Learning
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WM72R11orTU>
- All School Multi-age Literature Circles
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Lm_u8J-3tM
- Prairie Restoration Project
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzzG01WEPyc>

- *Additional publications, videos, and resources located at www.jameslewicki.org*

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

International Presenter

- Tokyo Olympic Village, Japan's High School Reform Network
- Lead Trainer, Lake Yamanako, Place-based Teacher Training Summer Institute

National Conference Presentations

- High Schools that Work Conference, Nashville, TN
- Rural School and Community National Conference, Flagstaff, AZ
- 1st National Charter School Conference, Washington DC
- Rural Stewardship Conference, Atlanta, GA
- Engaging Youth: Community and Learning Think Tank, Washington DC
- Leader of Kellogg Foundation funded Rural Trust Youth Leadership Conferences where several hundred youth leaders would gather from a half-dozen states.

State and Local Capacity Building Leadership

- Lead consultant for staff training during new school development; 100+ schools averaging 3 years of school/staff/governance/authorizer development for each school.
- Lead consultant for over 1,000 governance, authorizer, and school board meetings, retreats, and strategic planning sessions across 20 states with a variety of charter laws and stakeholders.
- Lead consultant in dozens of summer institutes, conversation days, and personalized PD events.
- Lead consultant on new facility school design and/or renovations with architects and builders.

SCHOOLS DOING GREAT WORK

This is a selection of the 100+ new schools that I have had the privilege to support. I worked closely with each school - translating an idea into a vision, then to the planning phase, then finally into the first few years of the school's implementation. Each is an outstanding example of what can be achieved when a dedicated team of educators combines with strong community and district leadership.

The KM Kettle Moraine Charter Schools

The following 4 schools are an exciting example of District Innovation with its Legacy Schools, Charter Schools, and Innovative Programs to create a mix of learning choices. EdWeek recognized Superintendent, Dr. Patricia Deklotz, for this leadership. See EdWeek article here: <https://leaders.edweek.org/profile/patricia-deklotz-superintendent-innovation/>

I had the fortunate experience to work with the founding faculty of all four schools over the course 4 years, with 100+ days of planning and implementation coaching and school design consulting.

KM Global (9-12)

- Wales, Wisconsin. Established 2011.
<https://www.kmsd.edu/Domain/15>
- National article from Competency Works:
<https://www.competencyworks.org/case-study/km-global-pedagogy-curriculum-and-learning-design/>

H2 High School of Health Sciences (9-12)

- Wales, Wisconsin. Established 2014.
<https://www.kmsd.edu/Domain/64>
- Selected as a World Leading Learner School: Global Learning Networks 2017. Top 30 schools from the United States, Singapore, Switzerland, Germany, South Korea, and Canada.
- Video from the school's second year: <https://www.kmsd.edu/domain/118>

KM Perform (9-12)

- Wales, Wisconsin. Established 2010.
<https://www.kmsd.edu/kmperform>
- Electronic Newsletter: <https://www.smores.com/tsr2n>

KM Explore (K-5)

- Wales, Wisconsin. Established 2012.
<https://www.kmsd.edu/kmexplore>
- Multi-age learning at its best: Personalized Learning Plans.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRVgPO_EZwU
- GettingSmart.com visited thousands of schools and selected 65 that exemplify powerful learning with an innovation mindset. KM Explore was one of the selected schools.
<http://www.gettingsmart.com/2015/11/66-elementary-middle-schools-worth-visiting/>

Multi-age Place-based Learning Schools

Northstar Community Charter School (4-8)

- Minong, Wisconsin. Established 2011.
<https://northstarcharter.wordpress.com/about/>
- Multi-age grades 4-8, a two-room schoolhouse devoted to learning in the community.

Eagleville Elementary Charter School (K-5)

- Mukwonago, Wisconsin. Established 2009.
- 100 year-old school transformed:
<https://www.masd.k12.wi.us/eves/about/eecs-ExperienceEagleville.cfm>

Career Academy Schools

Fox Cities Leadership Academy (9-12)

- Appleton, Wisconsin. Established 2007.
<http://fcla.aasd.k12.wi.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=460195&pageId=8510883>
- 2015 Bronze Medal in school rankings from US News and World Reports.
- 2016 Voted top 20 in Wisconsin and #430 in country by Newsweek.
- Creator of the Interdisciplinary Learning Collaborative:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_aM11PG_rag

Little Chute Career Pathways Academy (9-12)

- Little Chute, Wisconsin. Established 2011.
<https://www.lccpa.littlechute.k12.wi.us/index.cfm>
- High Academic Performance and interdisciplinary seminars and Career Exploration in Research, Coursework, and Partnerships.

Project Based Learning Schools

Valley New School (7-12)

- Appleton, Wisconsin. Established 2003.
<http://valleynewschool.com/>
- 3 Outstanding Projects <http://valleynewschool.com/projects/student-project-gallery/>
- Anatomy of a Project <http://valleynewschool.com/projects/anatomy-of-a-project/>
- The Valley New School Binder, the BEST guide to all aspects of PBL at your fingertips:
<http://valleynewschool.com/resources/>
- School Culture, What does a 70-student high school with all students having personal office workspaces look like? <http://valleynewschool.com/vision/environment/>

Phoenix High School (9-12)

- Kennewick, Washington. Established 2007.
<http://phoenix.ksd.org/>
- Terrific student video on “What is a project-based high school?”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6pVL5puXcA&t=231s>
- Guiding Beliefs: <http://phoenix.ksd.org/School/Our-School>

Explore Knowledge Academy (K-12)

- Henderson, Nevada. Established 2003.
<https://www.ekacademy.org/>
- Senior Project history on 11 years of EKA
<https://www.ekacademy.org/explore-knowledge-academy-a-project-11-years-in-the-making/>
- Senior Presentations, <http://www.ekacademy.org/senior-presentations/>
- Projects explained to 2nd/3rd grade students,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fsWirdHwhRc&feature=youtu.be>

STEM and PBL Schools

Wausau Engineering & Global Leadership Academy (9-12)

- Wausau, Wisconsin. Established 2010.
<http://wausauegl.org/>
- ACT Composite: 23.4 <http://wausauegl.org/prospective-students/test-results/>

Wildlands Science Research Charter School (7-12)

- Augusta, Wisconsin. Established 2005.
<http://www.wildlandsschool.net/>
- One of the best science project archives in the country:
http://www.wildlandsschool.net/student_projects.phtml

- 90% of students scoring Proficient or Advanced on Wisconsin Core Knowledge Exams in *All* Subjects: http://www.wildlandschool.net/pdfs/wkce_report.pdf

Northern Lakes Regional Academy (9-12)

- Rice Lake, Wisconsin. Established 2012.
<https://nlra.ricelake.k12.wi.us/home>
- NLRA Seminars:
<https://nlra.ricelake.k12.wi.us/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=9492922>

Place-Based and PBL Schools

Clark Street Community School (9-12)

- Middleton, Wisconsin. Established 2012.
<http://www.clarkstreetcommunityschool.com/>
- Outstanding seminars and connection with students:
<http://www.clarkstreetcommunityschool.com/curricula-and-exemplars>

Highland Community Schools (K-12)

- Highland, Wisconsin. Established 2010.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WM72R11orTU>
- Senior Exit Project Guidebook,
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9ksm17eFoTpYnVQUk96VkRIQms/view>

Badger Rock Middle School (6-8)

- Madison, Wisconsin. Established 2011.
- Neighborhood design build of new school. Partner with Resilient Cities and Growing Power: <https://www.resilientcities.org/projects-programs/badger-rock-center/>

Nuestro Mundo Community School (K-5)

- Madison, Wisconsin. Established 2004.
<https://nmcs.madison.k12.wi.us/>

Wisconsin's #1 District for Academic Achievement

Hartland Fine Arts Leadership Academy (K-2)

- Hartland, WI Established 2013
<http://hfala.hartlake.org/>

Hartland School of Community Learning (3-5)

- Hartland, WI Established 2011
<http://hartlake.org/>

Life Entrepreneurial Middle School (6-8)

- Hartland, WI Established 2014
<http://life.hartlake.org/>

Independent Charter School Serving Several Rural Communities

Golden Eagle Charter School (K-12)

- Mt. Shasta, California. Established 2004.
<http://www.gecs.org/>
- Outstanding collaborative leadership team for over 10 years:
<http://www.gecs.org/Content2/48>
- I-cans for student learning targets: <http://www.gecs.org/Content2/learningtargetsicans>