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**EDUCATION and CERTIFICATIONS**

- 2017** School Principal, Colorado  
License # 247871
- 2006** Hamline University, St. Paul, MN  
Doctoral Studies – Education
- 1988** University of Wisconsin – LaCrosse, WI  
**M.E.P.D.**, Education – Professional Development
- 1983** George Williams College, Aurora, IL  
**M.S.**, Outdoor Education Administration
- 1979** The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA  
**B.S.**, Social Sciences, Psychology
- 1976** Colorado Mtn. College, Glenwood Springs, CO  
**A.A.**, Outdoor Recreation Leadership
- 1975** The National Outdoor Leadership School, Lander, WY  
Wilderness Instructor Certification

**EXPERIENCE**

- 2019** **Founder/Senior Consultant**  
Lewicki Education Consulting, Boulder, CO [www.jameslewicki.org](http://www.jameslewicki.org)
- Consultant for School Pedagogical Design & K-12 Curriculum Development
  - Educational Writer: Sustaining High Performance Schools
- 2017-2019** **School Director/Principal**  
Pagosa Peak Open School, Pagosa Spgs, CO (<http://pagosapeakopenschool.org/>)
- Founding Principal of new project-based elementary school.
  - Multi-age learning, Field-based studies, Garden and Farm program, Food Security projects serving Archuleta County.
- 2015-2017** **School Director/Principal**  
Acad. of Arts and Knowledge, Ft. Collins, CO (<https://www.aakelementary.org/>)
- Principal of K-5 Fine Arts Elementary School
  - Returned school to Performance Rating from Priority Improvement.

- 2005-2015**      **Founder/Senior Consultant**  
 Lewicki Education Consulting ([www.jameslewicki.org](http://www.jameslewicki.org))
- Leadership in the establishment of over 100+ new elementary, middle, and high schools -- urban to rural -- across 20 states. Curriculum, faculty, facility, & board development.
  - Presenter and/or trainer during dozens of district, state, national, and international conferences, institutes, and think-tanks.
  - Wrote a variety of state, federal, and foundation grants for over \$25,000,000.
- 1988-2005**      **K-12 Classroom Teacher**, North Crawford Schools, Soldiers Grove, WI
- Self-contained 4<sup>th</sup> grade; 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies; and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade English
- 1979-1986**      **YMCA Camp Director**
- Executive Camp Director in Olympia, WA; Maui, HI; 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** Wisconsin State Finalist  
**1994**            Senator Herb Kohl \$2,000 **Teaching Fellowship**  
**1992**            **Teacher of the Year** Crawford County Conservation Teaching Award  
**1987**            **YMCA World Camp Award**

#### PUBLICATIONS

##### Book:

- **To Know the Joy of Work Well Done: *Place-based Learning and Sustaining School Communities*** (download @ [www.jameslewicki.org](http://www.jameslewicki.org))

##### 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>

##### Videos:

- **Interdisciplinary Learning Collaborative**
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_aM11PG\\_rag](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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Lm_u8J-3tM)
- **Prairie Restoration Project**
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzzG01WEPyc>

*Additional publications located at [www.jameslewicki.org](http://www.jameslewicki.org)*

### **A Selection of Consulted Schools**

This is a selection from the 100+ schools that I have had the privilege to work with -- from an idea to plan to implementation. The educators therein are an outstanding example of what can be achieved through collaboration and community.

### **The KM Kettle Moraine Charter Schools**

The following 4 schools are an exciting story of District Innovation with its Legacy Schools, Charter Schools, and Innovative Programs creating a mix of learning choices. EdWeek article:

<https://leaders.edweek.org/profile/patricia-deklotz-superintendent-innovation/>

#### **1.) KM Global (9-12)**

**Wales, WI 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/>

#### **2.) H2 High School of Health Sciences (9-12)**

**Wales, WI 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 its 2nd year <https://www.kmsd.edu/domain/118>

#### **3.) KM Perform (9-12)**

**Wales, Wisconsin. Established 2010**

<https://www.kmsd.edu/kmperform>

Electronic newsletter: <https://www.smores.com/tsr2n>

### **Multi-age, Place-based Elementary Schools**

#### **4.) KM Explore (K-5)**

**Wales, WI. Established 2012**

<https://www.kmsd.edu/kmexplore>

Multi-age learning at its best. Personalized Learning Plans.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRVgPO\\_EZwU](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 those: <http://www.gettingsmart.com/2015/11/66-elementary-middle-schools-worth-visiting/>

#### **5.) 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.

Video on Prairie Restoration project at school written and developed by students with adjunct faculty guidance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzzG01WEPyc>

#### **6.) Eagleville Elementary Charter School (K-5)**

**Mukwonago, WI Established 2009**

100-year-old school transformed

<https://www.masd.k12.wi.us/eves/about/eecs-ExperienceEagleville.cfm>

#### **7.) Rural Community Academy (RCA) (K-8)**

**Graysville, Indiana Established 2003**

<http://www.rcsi.k12.in.us/>

A rural community restores its only school. This western Indiana rural community had its school closed by

the County Board due to declining enrollment. A year later, it re-opened as one of Indiana's first charter schools. 15 years later, it continues to be an outstanding place of learning for its children and youth. Wonderful video of 4 rural charter schools across America including RCA. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4bZMzvWyau4&feature=youtu.be>

**8.) Park Community Charter School (K-4)  
Kaukauna, Wisconsin Established 2010**

Saving a 100+ year old school for its second century of learning, this charter school conversion anchored a downtown elementary school with strong place-based partners. Working with a talented founding faculty, the following is one of the best place-based focused charter school planning grants that we wrote for this wonderful small school. Available below: [https://www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us/cms\\_files/resources/PCCS%20Planning%20grant%20FINAL.pdf](https://www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us/cms_files/resources/PCCS%20Planning%20grant%20FINAL.pdf)

**9.) Merrimac Community Charter Elementary (K-6)  
Merrimac, Wisconsin Established 2006**

<https://www.saukprairieschools.org/schools/melm/>

Homepage shows an amazing student launched weather balloon reaching 122,667 feet above the school; and pictures from one of the best school gardens anywhere.

**10.) 11.) Woodland Charter School (6-8) and Creative Minds Charter School (3-5)  
Minocqua, Wisconsin Established 2011**

Great descriptive brochure of

Woodlands: [http://minocqua.ss10.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_406286/File/Minocqua/Schools/Woodland/About%20Woodland/Woodland%202016-17%20Brochure.pdf](http://minocqua.ss10.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_406286/File/Minocqua/Schools/Woodland/About%20Woodland/Woodland%202016-17%20Brochure.pdf)

Creative Minds: A wonderful multi-age learning community with three 3-5 grade classes collaborating CREATIVELY.

[http://minocqua.ss10.sharpschool.com/schools/creative\\_minds](http://minocqua.ss10.sharpschool.com/schools/creative_minds)

**Career Academy Schools**

**12.) Fox Cities Leadership Academy (9-12)  
Appleton, WI 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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aM11PG_rag)

**13.) Little Chute Career Pathways Academy (9-12)  
Little Chute, WI 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 utilizing the EdVisions model of self-directed learning**

**14.) Valley New School (7-12)  
Appleton, WI 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/>

**15.) Phoenix High School (9-12)**  
**Kennewick, WA 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>

**16.) Explore Knowledge Academy (K-12)**  
**Henderson, NV 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=fsWlrdHwhRc&feature=youtu.be>

**17.) Blue Hill Harbor School (9-12)**  
**Blue Hill, Maine Established 2007**

[www.bluehillharborschool.org](http://www.bluehillharborschool.org)

Small school (30 students) for self-directed PBL

A student led school newsletter published twice a month

<http://www.bluehillharborschool.org/newsletter.html>

**18.) Aveson Charter School (TK-12)**  
**Pasadena, California Established 2000**

[www.aveson.org](http://www.aveson.org)

Aveson School of Leaders (TK-5) and Aveson Global Leadership Academy (6-12)

Guiding Principles

<http://www.aveson.org/aveson-promise/guiding-principles>

**19.) Endeavor Charter School (9-12)**  
**Watertown, Wisconsin Established 2013**

Another inspiring small PBL high school that could fit on a bus!

<https://www.facebook.com/EndeavorCharterSchool/>

**Montessori Schools**

**20.) High Desert Montessori School**  
**Reno, Nevada Established 2007**

[www.hgmsreno.com](http://www.hgmsreno.com)

**21.) Viroqua Area Montessori School (K-5)**  
**Viroqua Wisconsin Established 2014**

<https://www.facebook.com/ViroquaAreaMontessoriSchool/>

**Fine Arts Schools**

**22.) Arkansas Arts Academy**  
**Bentonville, Arkansas Established 2007**

[www.artsk12.org](http://www.artsk12.org)

Arkansas Arts Academy High School is listed as the 8th best high school in Arkansas by the ADE.

**23.) Academy of Arts and Knowledge**  
**Ft. Collins, Colorado Established 2005**

<https://www.aakelementary.org/>

An outstanding fine arts program and quality faculty

## STEM and PBL Schools

### 24.) Wildlands Science Research Charter School (7-12)

Augusta, WI Established 2005

<http://www.wildlandschool.net/>

The best science project archives: [http://www.wildlandschool.net/student\\_projects.phtml](http://www.wildlandschool.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](http://www.wildlandschool.net/pdfs/wkce_report.pdf)

### 25.) Northern Lakes Regional Academy (9-12)

Rice Lake, WI Established 2012

<https://nlra.ricelake.k12.wi.us/home>

Seminars: <https://nlra.ricelake.k12.wi.us/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=9492922>

## Place Based and PBL Schools

### 26.) Clark Street Community School (9-12)

Middleton, WI Established 2012

<http://www.clarkstreetcommunityschool.com/>

Outstanding seminars and connection with students

<http://www.clarkstreetcommunityschool.com/curricula-and-exemplars>

### 27.) Highland Community Schools (K-12)

Highland, WI Established 2010

Multi-age Project Learning: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WM72R11orTU>

Student Produced Video on what PBL means to them, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyTU80pnzCE>

Highland Senior Exit Project

Guidebook, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9ksm17eFoTpYnVQUk96VkRIQms/view>

### 28.) Erie High School (9-12)

Erie, Kansas Established 2007

New LEED Certified High School with Personalized Project Learning

All girls project 5 Global finalist developed heat shield for Orion in NASA contest that had 125,000 students compete from 81 countries. <https://www.nasa.gov/content/high-school-final-five-compete-for-out-of-this-world-test-on-orion>

<http://www.jcpost.com/2014/04/26/kansas-high-school-a-finalist-for-nasa-design-challenge/>

Radio show: The Evolution of a PBL Program

<https://remarkablechatter.com/erie-high-school-plp-evolution-pbl-program-practicing-pbl-25/>

### 29.) Badger Rock Middle School (6-8)

Madison, WI Established 2011

Neighborhood design build of new school. Partner with Resilient Cities and Growing Power

<https://www.resilientcities.org/projects-programs/badger-rock-center/>

### 30.) Nuestro Mundo Community School (K-5)

Madison, WI Established 2004

<https://nmcs.madison.k12.wi.us/>

Terrific grassroots effort of parents

### 31.) Pagosa Peak Open School (K-6)

Pagosa Springs, Colorado Established 2017

[www.pagosapeakopenschool.org](http://www.pagosapeakopenschool.org)

Outstanding Food Security Initiatives and High Altitude Garden/Farm Program

## Green Schools

### **32. Northern Waters Environmental School (6-8)**

Hayward, Wisconsin Established

<https://www.northernwatershayward.org/>

Top Field based PBL School – Brittany Hager, Wisconsin Administrator of the Year Awardee – Wisconsin Environmental Education Association

Excellent field video with dozens of student viewpoints, <https://vimeo.com/channels/wgsn/127993165>

Project integration through “Good Oak” essay in a [Sand County Almanac](#) by Aldo Leopold

<https://www.northernwatershayward.org/sample-project>

### **33. High Marq Environmental Charter School (9-12)**

Montello, Wisconsin Established

[www.highmarq.org](http://www.highmarq.org)

2017 EarthGuard Award from the Wisconsin Association of E.E.

Teacher powered school ([www.teacherpowered.org](http://www.teacherpowered.org))

### **34.) Fox River Academy Environmental Charter School (K-8)**

Appleton, Wisconsin Established

[www.foxriveracademy.org](http://www.foxriveracademy.org)

national geographic leader: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/education/act-on-climate/next-generation-leaders/#appleton>

### **35.) Conserve School (9-12)**

**Land O’ Lakes, Wisconsin Established 2002**

<https://www.conserveschool.org/>

Outstanding Semester Residential School: <https://www.conserveschool.org/our-school/semester-school>

World Leader in Sustainable Curriculum and Campus Practices

<https://www.conserveschool.org/sustainability/living-the-mission>

## **Independent Charter School serving several rural communities**

### **36.) Golden Eagle Charter School (K-12)**

**Mt. Shasta, CA 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>

## **School Networks that Establish Quality for Urban Communities**

### **37.) Propel Schools (K-12)**

**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Established 2003**

Growing with a strong core idea and dynamic founders, Propel Schools now has 13 Allegheny County locations serving 4,000 students.

An Outstanding Set of Core Principals and Practices that guides this growth.

[http://www.propelschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Principles\\_Practices.pdf](http://www.propelschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Principles_Practices.pdf)