

## MEET OUR CLINICIANS

*Securing the Future: Building a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Secondary Choral Program*

**Kimberly Barclay Ritzer**



Kimberly Barclay Ritzer is in her 27th year as director of the Green Valley High School Choirs in Henderson, Nevada, and in her 28th year as a teacher for the Clark County School District. She holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education from UNLV and a Masters Degree in Educational Administration from the University of Phoenix. A recognized leader, Mrs. Ritzer serves as the Task Force Chair for High School Choir and Facility Chair for the Clark County School District Secondary Fine Arts

Programs. She also serves as the Green Valley High School Performing Arts Department Chair and has taught Secondary Choral Methods at UNLV. Kim has served three terms as president of the Nevada Music Educators Association and is currently finishing serving her third term as Nevada ACDA President just prior to now assuming her responsibilities as President-Elect of ACDA's Western Division.

Highly regarded for her commitment to choral artistry, the Green Valley High School Choirs consistently receive superior ratings at district, regional, state and national festivals. The GVHS Concert Choir performed at the 1998 ACDA Western Division Convention in Reno, the Madrigal Singers performed at the 2005 ACDA National Convention in Los Angeles, the 2009 ACDA National Convention in Oklahoma City, and the 2014 ACDA Western Division Conference in Santa Barbara. In November of 2001, Kim was named the Henderson Chamber of Commerce *Most Outstanding Educator* and in February of 2002 she was selected as Nevada's *Music Educator of the Year*. In November of 2002, Kim was selected as a recipient of the CCSD's *Excellence in Education Award*. In 2004, she was named *Outstanding Alumni for the College of Fine Arts* by the UNLV Alumni Association and was most recently selected as a finalist in CCSD's 2016 and 2017 *Heart of Education Awards*.

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**Susan Mueller**



Susan Mueller, associate professor of music, has extensive experience in elementary music education and the Orff Schulwerk approach. Mueller holds a Bachelor of Music at the University of Kansas, Master of Education in fine arts and curriculum from Lesley College, Level I-III and Masters class Orff Schulwerk certification and serves as a mentor teacher for educators nation-wide. She taught K-5 music education for 27 years in the Clark County

School District, Las Vegas, Nevada, until her 2005 appointment to UNLV where she teaches graduate music education courses, and serves as the Director of the School of Music.

Mueller is a nationally recognized and active workshop clinician for the American Orff-Schulwerk Association (AOSA) and the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) conferences as well as for conferences and chapters in Canada. She teaches basic Orff Schulwerk pedagogy at UNLV, and University of Central Florida. She has served on the National Board of Trustees for the American Orff-Schulwerk Association as Region II Representative (1996-1999), National Conference Chairperson (2000-2003, 2008-2011, 2014-2017), Vice President (2003-2005), and President (2005-2007). She has received Honorary Membership for service to AOSA and the Nevada Desert Valley Chapter's of AOSA's Lifetime Service Award. Mueller is published in the Clark County Elementary Music Curriculum Guide, *Las Vegas Writes II*, and has authored two publications, *Simply Speaking*, and *Simply Beginning*, both of which are teaching resources for the elementary music classroom.