

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Erica Baer-Woods, OAGC President



OAGC President, Erica Baer-Woods

Friends and colleagues:

As we enter the 2025-2026 school year, exciting horizons are before us in gifted education, especially in Ohio! Our amazing OAGC leadership team (including Abbie, Kay, and our board, committees, and divisions) has been hard at work this past year (and over the summer) to bring additional offerings to students, teachers, families, and districts, and we are excited for the impact these offerings will have!

First and foremost, Denise Hunt, our family and community division chair, has worked tirelessly to bring together the voices of families throughout Ohio in order to identify regional priorities; offer workshops throughout the upcoming year; and to identify priority topics of discussion for Ohio families of the gifted. We look forward to the targeted offerings coming from this division in the upcoming school year. Additionally, Angie Fugate, our president-elect, has brought together a workgroup to focus on gifted and MTSS, looking to bring additional offerings around these related topics to our educational community. As we have prioritized needs among our OAGC family, we have realized the need to augment our teacher division: as such, Jodi Overfield (governing board secretary and teacher division chair) will be reaching out this year to expand and develop a robust division serving gifted education teachers throughout Ohio. And -- as always -- our conference committees have been recruiting renowned speakers and educators to bring you the best in gifted education! This year's Fall Conference (October 12-14) keynotes will feature Emily Kircher-Morris and Michelle Frazier Trotman Scott, and we look forward to Dr. Carrie Simpson and Stephanie Higgs (Little Miss Gifted) joining us for our Virtual Teacher Academy in February! Add to this work Abbie's amazing advocacy; Laurel's focus on technology and messaging; the multiple scholarships shared with students; as well as the daily impact teachers and administrators have on gifted students across the state, and we realize: we have much to celebrate as we move into the '25-'26 school year.

Whether you are new to gifted education or are a thirty-year veteran, OAGC exists to support you as you work with families, students, and districts. Not only do we invite you to join us in the areas above, we invite you to connect with us as you navigate the waters of gifted education. When the waves of policy, legislation, and educational changes prove -- at times -- overwhelming, we at OAGC will support and encourage you, providing guidance, discussion, and professional learning to support your educational needs.

We look forward to sharing this school year with you!

All the best,
Erica Baer-Woods, OAGC President