

Heidi E. Anderson

Executive Director

- Where did you grow up?

On a farm in Saxon, Wisconsin

- What was your experience like in High School?

I attended a K-12 school, so learned with the same 50 or so classmates from Kindergarten through high school. I participated in sports, band and a number of clubs. I was also highly active in 4-H at the local and state level.

- Where did you go to school?

Hurley K-12 School, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Minnesota State University - Mankato

- Why did you decide to work in the field of education?

Since I was young, all I ever wanted to do was teach. I have never considered a career outside of education as I enjoy teaching and mentoring youth. In my current role as Executive Director, I am less hands-on teaching youth so my goal is to empower AFA teachers and staff to lead and educate youth with the support and resources needed to achieve excellence.

- Where did you work before Augsburg Fairview Academy?

AmeriCorps / Minnesota Alliance With Youth

Barron Area School District

University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire: Area Research Center and Counseling Services

Iron County Forestry Department

Whitecap Mountains

Iron County Extension

- Why did you choose to work at Augsburg Fairview Academy?

I was offered a Promise Fellow position at AFA in 2007 and jumped at the chance to serve. Since that year of service, I choose to stay at AFA because I love the AFA Community and I believe in the mission, vision and work that the AFA founders set forth when developing the school. I have participated in the growth and development of our school for ten years. I have the opportunity to continually learn and grow with the scholars, teacher and staff in a safe and supportive environment. I cherish this opportunity and am thankful that youth throughout the metro area choose AFA and love our school as much as I do.

- What was your first impression of Augsburg Fairview Academy?

Hard-working scholars and caring adults.

- What has surprised you most about working at Augsburg Fairview Academy?

Everything that a large traditional district is responsible for happens within our building!

- What do you like about Augsburg Fairview Academy?

I like that AFA is a safe and supportive environment for youth to not only learn the required academic standards, but grow socially, emotionally, mentally, physically, spiritually, culturally, and build their capacity for lifelong wellness.

- What would you say are some of your strongest beliefs about education?

I believe in school choice and that a free, intercultural and rigorous education is a civil right and social justice indicator.

- What do you wish other people knew about AFA?

I wish other people simply knew that we are an amazing public school option, and the only public charter high school option, in the Phillips West Neighborhood.

- What are some of your strongest beliefs about education?

Education must extend beyond the four walls of a school building. The scholars, teachers, staff, administration, school board, parents and guardians cannot work on an island. Moving further into the 21st Century, the entire community must unite to provide college and career readiness opportunities for youth to explore their talents and passions.

- What would you tell someone who is thinking about enrolling at Augsburg Fairview Academy?

Take a chance on AFA. We are a small and supportive environment where you will not only find a high-quality education, you will make lifelong connections to open-minded youth, caring adults and the support you need to achieve your goals.

- What are your hobbies?

Spending time with my family and loved ones, international travel, reading, strategy games, watching reality tv and raising my dogs, Penny and Jake.



- How would your students describe you?

High expectations, funny when you get to know me, hard-working and will go the extra mile for students.