

# James M. Largent, Ed.D.

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## EDUCATION

**Sam Houston State University;** Huntsville, Texas

Doctor of Education; August 2001

**Texas A&M University;** Commerce, Texas

Superintendent Certification; May 1995

**Sam Houston State University;** Huntsville, Texas

Master of Education in Administration; December 1993

**Lamar University;** Beaumont, Texas

Bachelor of Science in Physical Education; May 1987

Post-Graduate work in Education Leadership; 2002-2003

## CERTIFICATIONS/ ENDORSEMENTS

Superintendent

Mid-Management Administrator

History, Physical Education

TASA Mentor Superintendent

TEA Approved Provider for Board Training #04-104-I

Licensed Athletic Trainer (1987-1997)

## EMPLOYMENT

**Largent Consulting LLC** (2018-present)

Founder/CEO

**Granbury ISD** (2012-2018)

Superintendent of Schools

**Rusk I.S.D.** (2001-2012)

Superintendent of Schools

**Chireno I.S.D.** (1998-2001)

Superintendent of Schools

**Queen City I.S.D.** (1994-1998)

High School Principal

**Coldspring-Oakhurst C.I.S.D.** (1991-1994)

Assistant High School Principal  
Teacher/Head Baseball Coach/ Athletic Trainer

**Henderson I.S.D.** (1990-1991)

Teacher of American History/Physical Education  
Athletic Trainer/Assistant Coach

**Woodville I.S.D.** (1987-1990)

Teacher of World History/Physical Education  
Athletic Trainer/Assistant Coach

**AREAS of  
EXPERTISE**

Building academic excellence  
Team building, Site-Based-Decision-Making  
Authentic Learning/PBL  
Effective change  
Program evaluation  
Alternative Scheduling  
Financial investments, contracts, and negotiations  
Superintendent tenure and career patterns  
Planning and supervision of building projects

**SIGNIFICANT  
LEARNING  
EXPERIENCES**

Closing the Achievement Gap. October 26-27, 2009.  
This was a two-day Larry Bell seminar that focused on multicultural education and strategies to close the achievement gap in education. I took a team of teachers and administrators to this seminar.

TASA Technology Leadership Academy. This was a four-day academy in 2003-2004.

Lamar University Superintendent Academy X. In 2002-2003, I attended this year long academy that included a scholarship valued at \$10,000.

IBM Forum for School Executives. October 21-24, 2002.  
As part of the Superintendent Academy, I spent 4 days at the IBM Executive Training Facility in Palisades, NY.

Puebla, Mexico. June 9-17, 2000. As part of my doctoral internship, I spent 10 days studying schools and various cultural experiences in Mexico.

TASA First Time Superintendent's Academy. In 1998, I attended this year-long academy in Austin, Texas.

**LEADERSHIP**  
(Current)

- Granbury Chamber of Commerce, Chairman (2018)
- Granbury Chamber of Commerce, Director (2014-Present)
- Lake Granbury Medical Center, Board member (2016-present)

**HONORS/AWARDS**

- Blue and Gold Award**, Granbury FFA, May 2018.
- School Safety Spotlight**, *Student/Peer-Led Groups and/or Programs*, Texas School Safety Center, May 2018.
- 2016 nominee for **Region 11 Superintendent of the Year**
- 2015 nominee for **Region 11 Superintendent of the Year**
- 2011 nominee for **Region 7 Superintendent of the Year**
- 2010 nominee for **Region 7 Superintendent of the Year**
- 2009 **Region 7 School Board of the Year.**
- 2008 **Citizen of the Year**, presented by the Rusk Chamber of Commerce, January 10, 2009.
- Main Street Award** “for visionary efforts in promoting the growth of our community”, January 2004.
- Honorary Chapter FFA Degree**, May, 2003.
- Cover and feature article** for Jan/Feb **Texas Lone Star magazine**, 2002.
- Nominee for **AERA National Dissertation of the Year Award**, 2002.
- Educator of the Week**, The Daily Sentinel, Nacogdoches, Texas, March 3, 1998.
- National **Who's Who in Executives and Professionals**, 1996-97.
- 1996 Finalist for **Region VIII Principal of the Year.**

**PERSONAL**

I am married to **Jeri Ellen Largent**, an educational diagnostician in GISD. We have two children, **Justin** and **Jaci**, both graduates of Granbury High School.

**AFFILIATIONS**

American Association of School Administrators  
Texas Association of School Administrators  
Texas Association of Suburban and Mid-Urban Schools  
Texas Association of Community Schools  
First United Methodist Church

**INTERESTS**

I enjoy playing golf and stay active with a variety of outdoor and family activities.

## Vita

### Largent Consulting LLC

Founder/CEO (2018-Present)

- Largent Consulting will work with schools and corporate partners in a variety of ways. From business development, executive searches and superintendent mentorship, to podcasting and blogging, we will work to aggressively advocate for children and educators.

### Granbury Independent School District

Superintendent of Schools (2012-2018)

- Our career and technical education (CTE) students have been national champions in the **F1 in Schools program**, which has allowed them to compete internationally, representing the USA. (2015-2018)
- We started the **Eagles Nest program** that allowed our aeronautical engineering students to work with local mentors to build two fully-functional RV-12 aircraft. (2016-18)
- Granbury High School was named one of the top 175 high schools in Texas and among the **top 10% of high schools in the nation** two years in a row by the U.S. News and World Report. (2014, 2015)
- In November of 2013, GISD passed an **\$84.9 million bond package**, the largest in school history and the 6<sup>th</sup> largest in Texas on this election day. The bond addressed safe and secure entries at all campuses, \$11 million in technology upgrades, and a complete renovation of Granbury High School, complete with a new Career/Tech Center and fine arts improvements. This bond passed with almost 60% of the vote. The last bond that went before voters in GISD several years earlier failed badly.
- In 2013, GISD began a 3-year process to train all teachers in **Project Based Learning (PBL)** through the Burke Institute. This type model encourages students to take ownership in their learning and centers on real-life scenarios and presentations to community audiences.
- Entered into an **energy savings and conservation** agreement that replaced all lighting, 20-year old HVAC units, water conservation measures, and a new synthetic turf field in GISD. These measures resulted in a significant utility savings for our district. (2013)
- Worked with the City of Granbury to purchase, through donations, a **dog that is trained to detect drugs and weapons**. This dog is on GISD property every day of the school year and works with an officer whose salary is paid by GISD. (2013)
- Began a **Customer Care** process with administrators to build relationships across the District and create an attitude of “treat others the way I would want to be treated, if I were in their shoes.” (2012)
- Implemented **G-2020**, a strategic design process involving hundreds of students, staff and community members to map out the future of GISD. (2012)

- Created the **Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council (SSAC)**, a group of High School students who meet with me 4-5 times a year to discuss issues in our schools and their ideas about how we can provide them the best education possible. (2012)
- Created a **Speaker’s Bureau**, a data base of local experts, who volunteer to come to our schools, speak to our students and create a link between our classroom and the “real world.” (2012)
- Began a semi-regular column, **GISD Talking Points**, with our local newspaper and also have periodic appearances on local radio and TV channels to discuss education and our schools. (2012)

### **Rusk Independent School District**

Superintendent of Schools (2001-2012)

- RISD received **\$1.3 million in technology grants** (Vision 20-20 and Connections) that provided laptop computers to all students in grades 4-8, and expanded technology at the High School.
- Completed **renovations on several campuses in 2010** that included a new entry at the High School, Science labs at the Junior High, and expanded cafeteria space at Rusk Primary.
- Rusk ISD became a **Recognized District** in 2010 and again in 2011.
- Completed the **renovation of Eagle Stadium** that includes adding a lane to our **track**, a **complete track re-surface**, and adding a **synthetic turf** playing field. Also other cosmetic enhancements, fencing, concrete, etc. (completed in 2011)
- Headed a **construction team** to design, develop, and build a new **“Eagle Coliseum”** competition gym. This facility seats over 1300 and is a state of the art facility (completed in 2009).
- Implemented **longevity pay program** for teachers to encourage stability in our staff. This program began in 2007.
- Lead all staff in a year-long email-based **book study**. (began in 2005)
- Installed a DVD based CCTV **security camera system** on all campuses in the District. These cameras monitor inside public areas as well as targeted outside locations. (2005)
- Added **AED’s** (Automated External Defibrillators) on all campuses and athletic facilities in the District. (2005) This was before it was mandated.
- Introduced a **“Grab and Go Breakfast”** program at all campuses that gives all children a free breakfast each morning. (began in 2004)
- Rusk Primary and Elementary schools became **“Exemplary”** campuses. This was the first time these two campuses had achieved this rating. (2004, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010) “Recognized” 2006, 2007, 2011)
- Rusk Intermediate School became a **“Recognized”** campus in 2007 (2008, 2009, 2011) and an Exemplary campus in 2010.
- In 2006, Rusk Junior High became a **“Recognized”** campus for the first time in its history. (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011)

- In 2002 (2003), Rusk High School became an “**Exemplary**” campus. This was the first time in the school’s history that it had achieved a rating higher than academically acceptable. RHS was rated “**Recognized**” in 2010.
- Several of our campuses have received **Title I Distinguished School** recognition in recent years and all campuses have received numerous **Gold Performance Acknowledgements**.
- Headed a project to connect all five of our campuses with “**air blown**” **fiber optic** cabling for networking between all campuses. (2005)
- Implemented **incentive programs** for attendance and performance that impacted all employees of the District by paying incentives once a year (if earned) as part of a November pay supplement. (2005)
- Headed construction team to build a new facility that includes an **auditorium** as well as “state of the art” **science labs and additional classrooms** at the JH and HS campuses. (completed in 2005)
- Coordinated with County Health Department to offer **flu vaccinations** to all RISD students and have them administered at school with parent permission. (2004)
- Negotiated 15-year contract with Lamar Advertising to use **highway billboards** to promote Rusk ISD (2003).
- Rusk ISD successfully completed a District Effectiveness and Compliance (**DEC**) **visit** with only 2 citations in Special Education. We had no citations in all other programs. (2003)
- Negotiated contract with East Texas Medical Center to provide our staff and their family members free access to the Olympic Center for **wellness and weight training** (2002).
- Headed a **construction team** to design, develop, and build a new **Intermediate School** to house 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders (completed in 2003).
- Created Director of Instructional Programs position to concentrate on “**focused instruction**” throughout the district. This person works with all principals and staff to align curriculum both vertically and throughout departments (2001).
- Implemented an **energy conservation program** by retrofitting all lighting throughout the district and installed motion sensors in each room to turn off lights when no person is in the room. We also installed motion sensors on our toilets and throughout the new Intermediate school. We have seen significant savings each year in electrical costs due to these improvements.
- Received **Instructional Facilities Allotment** grant in the amount of \$5 million for the construction of a new intermediate campus facility (2003).
- Rusk Junior High was named a **National Demonstration School** for the AVID program which is a program for at-risk children that encourages them to prepare for college. We have been awarded this distinction each year from 2001-2012.

## **Chireno Independent School District**

**Superintendent of Schools** (1998-2001)

- In three years, we **doubled the fund balance** of our district, while at the same time showed marked improvement in facilities, transportation, and the academic program.
- Successfully passed a **bond election** with an **82% favorable vote** in May of 2000. This election was for the construction of a new High School and cafetorium.
- Negotiated an exclusive contract with **Coca-Cola** that provided our students with guaranteed yearly scholarships as well as other financial incentives.
- In 2001, our **District** was rated **Recognized** by TEA for the first time in its history.
- In 2000, our **High School** received a **Texas Successful Schools Award** from TEA.
- In 1999, 2000 and 2001, our **High School** campus received a rating of **Exemplary** from the TEA. 1999 was the first year our school had ever received this rating.
- In 2001, our **Elementary** school was rated **Recognized** by TEA.
- Began a comprehensive pre-testing and staff development program for **TAAS Improvement** and Curriculum Alignment.
- Our District was named a **TEKStar showcase school** for our use of a computerized curriculum program.
- Our district was named a **Title I Honor School** in 2001, and a **Title I Commended School** in 1999 and 2000. These awards were for achieving academic excellence in a District with over 60% economically disadvantaged students.
- Began an **energy conservation** program by replacing all existing lighting with more energy efficient fixtures. We paid for the system with reduced electric bills.
- Supervised to completion a new **wetlands wastewater treatment facility** for our school.

## **Queen City Independent School District**

**High School Principal** (1994-1998)

- Our campus was rated **Recognized** by the Accountability System for Texas Public Schools. We earned this rating for four consecutive years, with 1996 being the first time the campus had ever achieved that rating.
- After implementing numerous TAAS improvement strategies, our campus made tremendous gains in all areas of the TAAS test. In three years, we had a combined gain of **38% in Math, 19% in Reading and 13% in Writing**.
- Our high school was one of the **pilot schools** in Texas for the inclusion of special education students.
- We made a scheduling change to the **Accelerated Block** schedule for the high school. Teams of teachers, students, and administrators were involved in the process and enjoyed the positive effects of the schedule.
- We had a very effective **site-based team** in place on our campus that was involved in many areas of school improvement, including hiring new employees, providing input to the administration, reviewing and recommending policy decisions, involvement in the budgetary process, and other areas of importance to the staff and school.

## **Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD**

Assistant High School Principal (1991-1994)

- Served as a leader in a pilot program to **integrate curriculum** in the high school.
- Developed an **alternative school program** to serve students who would normally have been expelled from school. (This was before the State mandated this practice.)
- Developed a new **discipline management** plan for our campus and updated the student and teacher handbooks.
- **Everyday responsibilities** included 1) primary administrator in charge of discipline; 2) teacher evaluations and walk-through observations; 3) coordinating extra duties for teachers and staff; 4) general personnel administration.

Head Baseball Coach-I took over a baseball program that had never had a winning season and never been in the playoffs.

- In my first season, we posted the best record in school history, and in my second and third seasons we represented our school in the playoffs.
- We were District and Bi-District champions in 1994 and lost to eventual state finalist Waco Robinson in the Regional Playoffs.

Assistant Football Coach/Athletic Trainer-Duties included coaching as needed on the football field and the everyday operation of an athletic training room.

- Emergency care, treatment and rehabilitation of athletic injuries.
- In 1992, our football team was the Class AAA State Runner-Up.

## **Henderson Independent School District**

Teacher, Athletic Trainer, Assistant Coach (1990-91)

- Taught History and Physical Education
- Served as Head Athletic Trainer and Assistant Baseball Coach

## **Woodville Independent School District**

Teacher, Athletic Trainer, Assistant Coach (1987-1990)

- Was the first licensed athletic trainer in the school's history
- Taught World History and Physical Education
- Served as Assistant Football Coach (QB's and receivers)
- Served as Assistant Baseball Coach.
- Our baseball team was in the State Playoffs two of three years I was there, advancing to the Regional finals in 1990.

PAST LEADERSHIP  
POSITIONS

- America Association of School Administrators; Governing Board, 1 of 4 TX Representatives (2017-2018)
- Granbury Education Foundation, Board member (2012-2018)
- Granbury Chamber of Commerce, Chair-elect (2017)
- TASA Leadership Development Committee (2013-2015)
- Chairman-Supernet II Technology consortium (2007-2012)
- Regional Director-Texas Taxpayer and Student Fairness Coalition (Finance Lawsuit) (2011-2012)
- Region VII Executive Committee (2002-2008)
  
- Executive Committee-Texas Association of Community Schools (2009-2011)
- Advisory Committee-Stephen F. Austin State University Superintendent Preparation Program (2006-2012)
- UIL Region 21 Music Executive Committee (2004-2012)
- UT-Tyler Superintendent Advisory Committee (2004-2012)
- Board Member-Cherokee County Teachers Credit Union (2004-2012)
- Board Chairman-Cherokee County Shared Services Arrangement (2001-2012)
- Vice Chairman-District 18 AAA. (2008-2010)
- Chairman-Districts 20-21 AAA (2004-2008)
- TASA Leadership Development Committee (2006-2008)
- Director-Senate District 3, Texas Association of Mid-Sized Schools (2005-2007)
- County Representative, The Equity Center, (2003-2007)
- Coca-Cola “Fanta U” Advisory Council (2004-2006)
  
- Director, Rusk Chamber of Commerce- (2003-2005)
- FUMC Staff/Parish Relations Committee (2003-2005)
- TASA Legislative Committee (2003-2005)
- Board of Directors, Rusk Kiwanis Club- (2003-2005)
- Board of Directors-Nacogdoches County –Alternative Education Cooperative (1998-2001)
- Advisory Board-Rusk Main Street Program (2002-2004)
- Representative Chuck Hopson’s “Public Education Community Committee” (2003-2004)
- Chairperson-Region VII Advisory Committee (2002-2003)
- Board of Directors-Nacogdoches County Special Education Cooperative (1998-2001)
- Advisory Committee-Texas Music Educators Association (2002)

- TASA Administrative Services Committee (2000-2001)
- Chairman-Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce  
Teacher of the Year Selection Committee (2001)
- Board of Directors-Atlanta Area Lions Club (1996-98)

## PAST CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

- Rusk Chamber of Commerce
- Rusk Main Street Program
- Rusk Industrial Foundation, Inc.
- First United Methodist Church Choir
- Rusk Kiwanis Club
- Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce
- Atlanta Area Lions Club
- Atlanta Area Chamber of Commerce
- Various Youth Baseball Associations
- Director of Summer Baseball Camps
- Rusk Little Dribblers

## PUBLICATIONS

Voices of the Nation. (2017, May). High School Today, p. 56.

GISD Talking points. (occasional column). The Hood County News, first column published in October, 2012.

Gotcha Education. (2008, March 19). The Cherokeean Herald, p. 4.

Who's to blame for the legislature's failure. (2005, August 26). Jacksonville Daily Progress, p.3. (2005, August 29). TexasISD.com, home page.

Holding on to your super supe. (2002, January/February). Texas Lone Star, 6-9.

RISD Talking points. (occasional column). The Cherokeean/Herald, first column published in 2001.

Superintendent trends surveyed. (2001, September 24). Texas Education News, p. 3.

Superintendent tenure in Texas: Characteristics of the superintendent, school, and community, and their effect on tenure (2001). Doctoral dissertation, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas.

How to build a successful baseball program at the small school. (1994, February). Texas Coach, 20-21.

## PRESENTATIONS

Granbury Chamber of Commerce, "The State of the District." January 2014, October 2016, September 2017.

Granbury Chamber of Commerce, "The Future of Granbury ISD." August, 2012.

Hellas Construction, Inc., National sales meeting; Austin, Texas. "Why choose Hellas for sports field construction?" November 2011.

Region VII Education Service Center, Kilgore, Texas. "Effective Board/Superintendent Relations." November 2008.

Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas. "Building an Effective Administrative Team." October 2004.

American Association of School Administrators (AASA) 135<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exposition, New Orleans, Louisiana. "Strategies to Increase Superintendent Tenure." February 21, 2003.

Texas House of Representatives, Austin, Texas. Select Committee on Teacher Health Insurance. Testified on the status of health insurance in rural school districts. February 12, 2001.

Universidad Iberoamericana International Conference, Puebla, Mexico. "Profile of a Rural School District in East Texas, USA," June 16, 2000.

Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas. Dr. Bill Heeney's graduate class on Public relations. "Entering the Administrative Job Market," June 24, 1997.

Texas A&M University, Commerce, Texas. Dr. James Wilcox's graduate class on the Principalship. "Characteristics of an Effective Principal," March 26, 1997.

TASA/TASB Joint Convention 1996, George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, Texas. "Selling the Accelerated Block Schedule to the School and Community," September 30, 1996.

Inclusion Works National Convention, Corpus Christi Convention Center, Corpus Christi, Texas. "Implementing Inclusion in a School District," April 7, 1995.

TASA/TASB Joint Convention 1994, Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, Texas. "Inclusion: A Positive Change for the Future," October 2, 1994.