

Joy Zabala Fellowship

Steering Committee Membership

The Joy Zabala Fellowship in Assistive Technology and Accessible Educational Materials was founded in 2021 to honor the memory of our beloved colleague and friend, Joy Smiley Zabala, Ed.D, and to continue her passion to build capacity among Practitioners, to support individuals with disabilities in using technology to access learning.

The Fellowship Steering Committee is made up of volunteers representing the Zabala Family, the QIAT Leadership Team, CAST, ATIA, and the broader AT/AEM community. The Fellowship is supported entirely by donations, with all donations directly supporting Fellowship Teams.

Current Steering Committee Members

Co-Chairs:

Diana Foster Carl, M.A., is an independent consultant who has more than 40 years of experience in various capacities in special education and in leadership roles in national, statewide, and regional organizations and boards. Diana, whose background is as a licensed specialist in school psychology, is a former Director of Special Education Services at Region 4 Education Service Center in Houston and was the lead facilitator of the Texas Assistive Technology Network (TATN) for twelve years. For ten years she contracted with CAST as the Special Projects Coordinator for the National Center on Accessible Educational Materials and the previous national centers at CAST related to accessible materials. Diana's daughter has cerebral palsy and uses a power wheelchair for mobility. Diana is a founding member of QIAT.

Skip Stahl is a Senior Policy Analyst, Emeritus, and a Founding Partner of CAST. He is a nationally recognized expert in accessible educational materials and Universal Design for Learning. Skip accrued extensive experience in advising education stakeholders –including states, district leaders, publishers, and policymakers – on how to make learning environments and products more effective and inclusive for all.

Representing the Zabala Family:

Adriana Zabala is one of Joy Zabala's two daughters. She is an Associate Professor of Voice at the Yale School of Music and previously served as Associate Professor of Voice at the University of Minnesota. Adriana is an accomplished mezzo-soprano who enjoys a dynamic career of teaching as well as performing.

Representing the QIAT Leadership Team:

Terry Vernon Foss, M.Ed., is a special educator and AT specialist. Her areas of expertise are: developmental differences; autism; severe to moderate differences in communication and behavior; sensory-based communication; and AT/AAC. She is co-author of *Every Move Counts, Clicks and Chats: Sensory-Based Strategies for Communication and Assistive Technology*, *Every Move Counts, Clicks and Chats: A Family Guide for Sensory-Based Strategies for Communication and Assistive Technology*. Terry lives in Kansas and continues to support the AT community. Terry is a founding member of QIAT.

Jane Korsten, M.A., has a degree in elementary education from the University of Kansas and a M.A. in Speech Pathology and Audiology from the University of Illinois. She has worked as a speech pathologist and AT resource specialist with individuals of all ages having significant sensory motor differences and autism. She has worked in public schools, supported living settings for adults and private practice developing alternate communication systems for individuals who are non-verbal. She was the principal investigator on an Innovative Research Grant funded through the National Institutes of Health which led to the development of *Every Move Counts: a sensory based approach to communication*. Jane is a co-author of *Every Move Counts* and *Every Move Counts, Clicks and Chats*. Since 1989, Jane has provided professional development on a variety of topics in 30 states. Jane is a founding member of QIAT.

Joan Breslin Larson, M.Ed., is an independent consultant on issues relating to AT. Her work has a particular focus on policy, leadership and developing effective teams to improve services for assistive technology in special education. She was formerly a supervisor for services for students with low incidence disabilities at the Minnesota Department of Education, and, an AT and UDL specialist. She has worked in AT for over 30 years, as an independent consultant, in a school setting and at the state education agency. Joan lives in Minnesota, and is the parent of three adult children, one of whom had an IEP.

Representing CAST:

Maggie Pickett is a Senior Technical Assistance Specialist for the [Center on Inclusive Technology & Education Systems \(CITES\)](#) at CAST. Maggie explores systemic integration of Assistive Technology, Information Technology, and Educational Technology systems, in partnership with districts. Maggie is a certified speech-language pathologist who previously served as Program Consultant for the [Iowa Department of Education](#) as the AIM/AEM Coordinator for the state of Iowa. As a district AEM Coordinator she collaborated across district initiatives to support inclusive teaching and learning structures.

Representing ATIA:

Caroline Van Howe is the Chief Operating Officer at the Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA). ATIA is a not-for-profit trade association of the leading IT and AT manufacturers and service providers. ATIA provides ongoing professional development and

learning opportunities through its Learning Center and Annual Conference. Sessions in both are presented by leading AT professionals and designed for educators, consultants, and service professionals working at the local, state and national levels in government and private organizations.

Representing the AT/AEM Community at large:

Christopher Bugaj, MA, CCC-SLP, is a founding member of the Assistive Technology Team for Loudoun County Public Schools in Virginia.