

# Tap To Togetherness TEAM



K-State researchers from the School of Music, Theatre and Dance and the College of Human Ecology are enhancing well-being with Tap To Togetherness, a program that fosters family interactions and child development through movement. Participants attend tap dance sessions twice a month for children ages 12 months to pre-Kindergarten. Families are permitted to bring older children.

Sessions are offered through a local Parents as Teachers program and K-State Research and Extension. Both of these organizations specialize in designing and disseminating better health and nutrition practices and are providing a network crucial to delivering and sustaining the program and maintaining the health of families and the development of children.

## Julie L. Pentz

— Tap To Togetherness Dance Director and Founder

Julie is the lead teacher for Tap To Togetherness, or T3. Julie's contributions to the dance field include the international dance community with guest appearances at the Teatro Libero in Rome; Chinese Cultural University, National Taiwan University of the Arts, Tsoying Performing Arts School, Koahsiung Performing Arts School, all in Taiwan; the Interdansa in Banyoles-Girona, Spain; and in Accra, Ghana. Currently, Julie is an associate professor and associate director in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance at Kansas State University, teaching jazz and tap dance. She graduated from Shenandoah University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance education and earned a Master of Fine Arts in theater arts with a dance emphasis from the University of Arizona. Before returning to graduate study, she performed with The National Tap Ensemble and worked with master tap teachers, including Gregory Hines, Savion Glover and Brenda Buffalino. Julie may be contacted at [jpentz@k-state.edu](mailto:jpentz@k-state.edu).

## Janice Schroeder

— Parents as Teachers Liaison

Janice has been a Parent Educator with Parents as Teachers since 1992. She received her Bachelor's degree from Kansas State University. Janice is trained in Parents as Teachers Foundational Birth-three and 3-Kindergarten entry curriculums. She is a Kansas Home Visitation Coach. Janice is also trained in Mental Health First Aid, Baby Behaviors, ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE implementation. As an educator, Janice enjoys getting to know and work with families of diverse backgrounds. She finds it heart warming to see parents experience the growth and capabilities of their children. "To see a parent beam with pride in their child's accomplishments is such a reward." Janice feels like she learns from each family she works with Her ultimate goal as a Parent Educator is to provide knowledge and to support parents on how they can help their child towards a successful future, helping to identify the strengths or delays in their child. She wants parents to know that they are their child's first and most important teacher! Janice is responsible for Tap To Togetherness enrollment information. Janice may be contacted at [janices@usd383.org](mailto:janices@usd383.org) or 785-477-0484.

Janice Schroeder



Julie L. Pentz