Panel for Words of Wisdom from Career Choral Educators:

Ruth Dwyer, Rick Gamble, Bill Niederer, Mark Yount, and Pat Wiehe

Introductions: 5 minutes
(Fyi - If you have specific questions, please write them on a paper. A member of the mentorship committee will collect them. Please include you email as we may need to email you response to your question.

Lightning Round: 30 minutes

Lightning Round Explanation- One sentence or one quick statement. *Please prepare your answers for this section and write them down so you can quickly respond.*

1. One "Instant Success" Repertoire Selection for Advanced Mixed Choir

List selection, arranger or composer, and publisher

2. "Instant Success" Treble voiced piece

List selection, arranger or composer, and publisher

3."Instant Success" Tenor/Bass voiced piece

List selection, arranger or composer, and publisher

4."Instant success" repertoire selection for the beginning of the year for a level of your choosing

List selection, arranger or composer, and publisher

5. Best Classroom Management/ Positive Behavior Support Tip

6. One simple way that you encouraged team building and social connections within your ensemble?

7. *What was one specific way that you recruited that served most beneficial?*

8. *An epiphany you learned later on in your career that you wish you would have known early in your career.*

Discussion Questions
(28 minutes total)

Questions: (7 minutes each) Approximately one minute response for each panel member.

1. *Currently schools districts are focusing on data and some are actually paying teachers based on competition scores and ratings. How do you suggest that choral educators balance their time and energy between teaching a robust music curriculum with coaching singers for competitions?*

2. *As a follow-up question; How can we engage singers in choral music education that may lead to lifelong participation in choral activities post graduation?*

3. *All the educators on this panel have spent a majority of their lives as choral music educators. We all can name past associates who were successful teachers but left the profession due to burn-out. How do you suggest that choral educators avoid burn-out?*

4. *As choral educators we are basically running a small business by budgeting, fundraising, and managing support staff and volunteers. Share ways that helped you stay organized and as you maximized available resources.*

One minute announcement:
The Indiana Choral Directors are piloting a free mentoring program this Fall for Indiana Early Career Choral Educators with 5 or less years experience who are ICDA members. Please look at the ICDA website for a sign-up link to express interest in becoming a mentor or mentee. Please share any ideas with our committee members who are wearing a special ribbon on their name tags.

About our Panel:

Ruth Dwyer has recently retired from the Indianapolis Children's Choir after 35 years as a conductor, Director of Education and Artistic Director of the Columbus Indiana Children's Choir. Her ensembles have performed across North America, Spain, Brazil, and throughout Central Europe. Her teaching experiences also include 19 years as a K- 12 public school music educator and adjunct professor with Butler University. She is presently the Artistic Director with the Eli Lilly Employee Chorus.

She has authored several music education text books for ICC: now available for digital download at Beckenhorst Press. She is also a frequent guest author for the Hal Leonard choral music text book series, accomplished composer, arranger and the editor of the *Ruth Dwyer Choral Series* with Colla Voce Music now distributed by ECS Publishing Group.

Mrs. Dwyer continues to enjoy serving the music community in retirement as a studio conductor for Chorister Guild and Alfred publishers, guest conductor, teacher mentor, composer and lecturer/clinician.

Rick Gamble taught at Avon HS for 31 years. Before that he worked as a singer and actor for about 7 years. He was educated at Indiana University in Bloomington. He served as ICDA President, and was on the board for about 10 years. He worked on the staff of various churches intermittently. He hosted Solo & Ensemble at Avon for about 15 years. He served on the staff of Indiana Musicians Abroad last year. He has judged for ISSMA, private contests, and the New Mexico Choral Association. He worked as interim choir director at the University of Indianapolis this past year after he retired.

Bill Niederer taught public school music for 35 years, in a variety of urban and rural settings and populations in Indiana (Porter County, Fort Wayne, Elkhart) and in Iowa. An alumnus of Indiana State University, he taught everything from grade 6-12 choirs, color guard, middle school, beginning and competitive show choirs, jazz choir, piano class, music theory, and AP Music Theory.

In retirement, Bill is a full-time accompanist and music department secretary at Mishawaka High School, where he also sometimes coaches student singers and piano class students as well sectional rehearsals. He is a former ICDA President and Central Region Editor and is an adjudicator for ISSMA (concert and sight-reading) and for the Iowa High School Music Association, as well as serving as a substitute organist at Michiana area churches.

Mark Yount was a public school music educator for 27 years, and most recently taught at Ben Davis 9th Grade Center and Martinsville High School. Mark Yount is a clinician and educator from central Indiana. He's taught award winning Concert Choirs, Show Choirs, and Vocal Jazz Choirs with students from Kindergarten through College. He's been a clinician throughout the country including the International Music Camp, Butler Jazz camp and Indiana All State Vocal Jazz. Mark is a regular contributor to IMEA, ISSMA, and ACDA as a clinician and choral director. He works with students of all ages, across all musical styles including Concert Choir, Show Choir, Jazz Choir, Pop Acapella and more.

QR Code for Mentorship Initiative

Patricia Wiehe received her B.S. and M.M. degrees from Ball State University. She spent her entire teaching career in Washington Township, Indianapolis. She started teaching choir and general music at Northview Junior High School in 1967. At North Central, Wiehe directed five choirs. Counterpoints, the top mixed concert/show choir, won 22 ISSMA State Championships in both concert and show choir during her tenure. They also performed at four Central Division Conventions and one National ACDA Conference. They were featured at state and national MENC Conferences as well. Her top women's choir, the Descants, were 7 - time ISSMA State Champions in concert and show choir. Her gospel choir, the Northernaires, was the featured choir at the IMEA conference in 2005 She won numerous awards for her teaching during her outstanding career. She is a member of ACDA and is a past president of ICDA and is the past Central Division ACDA Repertoire and Standards Chair for Show Choir.

Upon retirement, Wiehe has served as a judge and clinician. She was adjunct professor at Butler University and DePauw University and is currently supervising student teachers from Indiana University. In her free time, she enjoys swimming, gardening and spending time with her family.

Joyce Click, Moderator taught 44 years in MSD Washington Township with 20 years in elementary music and 24 years in Choral Music at North Central High School, winning numerous recognitions for her teaching and with her choirs. She served as ICDA area chair for All-State Choir for 20 years, on the ICDA board as an area rep and served as Rep and Standards Chair several areas. She has served as an advocate for providing inclusive spaces in our choral and music classrooms. She currently chairs the ICDA Mentorship Initiative.

Post K-12 full-time teaching, she mentors future music and mild interventions educators through the University of Indianapolis and supervises student teachers in music and special education for Anderson University. She directs the children's music program at St. Mark's UMC, a position she has held for 30 years. She continues to co-direct the Summer Enrichment Musical Theater program for MSDWT which she co-founded almost 30 years ago. She recently authored a book for Beat by Beat press "Building A Musical Theater Program for Kids" and does other freelance writing in the areas of music and special education. She and her husband travel to California to see their adult children several times per year.