

Christi Blahnik hails from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where she obtained both a Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education and a Bachelor of Music Degree in Clarinet Performance from Duquesne University.

Christi currently serves as the Director of Bands at Damonte Ranch High School. Prior to her Damonte Ranch High School appointment, she served as the Director of Bands and Choirs at Douglas High School in Minden, Nevada from 2015-2018.

Committed to serving her district and state, Christi served as the High School Honor Band Coordinator for the Northern Zone from 2016-2018, and the WCSD Honor Band Co-Chair in 2019-2020. She will begin her role as the WCSD High School Honor Band Chair in 2020-2021. Ms. Blahnik also serves on the NMEA Board as the Nevada All-State Band Northern Chair, and is responsible for organizing the auditions and logistics of the All-State Band Festival. In 2018, Ms. Blahnik was awarded the NMEA New Music Educator of the Year Award at the All-State Festival. She will also begin serving on the Duquesne University Music Alumni Advisory Committee in 2020-2021.

As a performer, she has performed with local ensembles such as the Reno Pops Orchestra, The Ruby Mountain Symphony, and The Toccata-Tahoe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. She subs for local musicians in chamber and orchestral settings, and currently serves as the Staff Piano Accompanist for the Carson Valley United Methodist Church.

Taking an interest in Wind Conducting, she has participated in several Wind Conducting Workshops as a Conducting Fellow and has worked with conductors such as Loras Schissel, Robert Page, Emily Threinen, Robert Halseth, Mallory Thompson, Reed Chamberlin, and Craig Kirchhoff. She also had the opportunity to conduct the Symphonic Band and Wind Symphony at Duquesne University while studying Wind Conducting with Dr. Robert Cameron.

During her time at Duquesne University, Christi also served as the President of the university's Mu Phi Epsilon Chapter, and the Vice-President of the university's NAFME Chapter. She was recognized with the

Pennsylvania Pre-Service Teacher's "Excellence in Service" Award. Being influenced heavily by Bands of America, she was fortunate to be chosen to serve as a SWAG Counselor for the Music for All Summer Symposium Camp at Ball State University in Indiana and receive the award for "Rookie Swag of the Year." She was also selected to present her studies on band literature, "Band Composers that Borrow," at the 2014 National Mu Phi Epsilon Conference held in Sacramento, California.

Christi currently resides in Reno, Nevada with her dogs, Oliver and Millie. She looks forward to continuing to empower personal growth through musical excellence at Damonte Ranch High School.