

BRIANA D. BLANKENSHIP

Director of Athletic Bands

Indiana Wesleyan University

Marion, Indiana

briana.blankenship@indwes.edu | 765.677.4230 (office)

Briana D. Blankenship is the Director of Athletic Bands at Indiana Wesleyan University where she founded the IWU Marching Wildcats. Beyond her leadership of the athletic band program, she coaches chamber ensembles and assistant directs the IWU Wind Ensemble. Within the Division of Music and Theatre, Blankenship teaches conducting, marching band techniques, arranging, applied trumpet lessons, and supervises student teachers during their student teaching internships and practicum placements in various school systems. As an active conductor, adjudicator, clinician, and trumpet performer, Blankenship has appeared with numerous professional ensembles and regularly serves as a guest conductor, adjudicator, and speaker. Her professional interests include collegiate athletic bands, music education, conducting, trumpet pedagogy, and leadership.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION

Master of Arts in Music, Trumpet Performance (M.A.)

Marshall University

Huntington, West Virginia

2014

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Music Education PreK-adult, *summa cum laude*

Marshall University

Huntington, West Virginia

2012

PreK – Adult Music Educator License

West Virginia Department of Education

TEACHING & INSTRUCTION EXPERIENCE

Director of Athletic Bands; July 2020 – present

Division of Music and Theatre

Indiana Wesleyan University – Marion, Indiana

- **Marching Band (MUS 166)**
 - Founded and developed the Indiana Wesleyan University Marching Wildcats, establishing the institution's inaugural marching band program in 2020.
 - Grew the ensemble into a nationally recognized program.
 - Responsible for all aspects of artistic leadership, curriculum development, recruitment, budgeting, personnel management, programming, and strategic growth of the ensemble.
 - Perform at all home football games and other local and regional events.
 - Led the IWU Marching Wildcats to Third Place (Division II/III) in the 2025 "For Whom the Band Tolls" Metallica Marching Band Competition, earning national recognition and \$10,000 worth of instruments and equipment for the Marching Band.
- **Pep Band**
 - Organize, rehearse, and conduct 50+ students divided among two smaller bands to perform at all home men and women's basketball games.
- **Arranging (MUS 300)**
 - Teach undergraduate arranging, emphasizing orchestration, scoring, and practical arranging techniques.
- **Beginning Conducting (MUS 285)**
 - Teach introductory conducting with a focus on rehearsal techniques, score study, and expressive gesture.
- **Marching Band Techniques (MUS 287)**
 - Teach the organization, techniques, administration and materials of the high school marching band as part of the total instrumental music program.
- **Applied Trumpet (MUS-101, 201, 301, 401; MUS 111, 211, 311; MUS 100)**
 - Instruct applied trumpet students from freshman through senior levels, preparing students for juries, recitals, and all other performances.
- **Junior Recital (MUS 342P)**
 - Guide students through the preparation and performance of their Junior Recital.
- **Senior Recital (MUS 442)**
 - Guide students through the preparation and performance of their Senior Recital.

- Honors Brass Quintet (MUS 189)
 - Coach students in preparing and performing chamber music as well as a variety of musical offerings from classical, hymn arrangements, and lighter selections.
- Wind Ensemble (MUS 196)
 - Rehearse, conduct, and assist with all aspects of the Wind Ensemble program, including artistic planning, concert preparation, recruitment, and ensemble administration.
- Tuba/Euphonium Quartet
 - Coach students through the process of preparing and performing a variety of literature.
- Student Teacher Supervision (EDU 492)
 - Conduct student observations within school placements.
 - Communicate regularly with cooperating teachers.
 - Work with students to achieve outcome goals and portfolio development.
 - Provide constructive feedback after each observation.
 - Assess student portfolios and teacher work samples.
 - Serve on student teaching oral defense committee.
- Practicum Student Supervision
 - Conduct student observations within the school placements.
 - Communicate with cooperating teachers.
 - Check student lesson plans.
 - Assess and provide constructive feedback after each observation.

Director of Bands, Music Teacher; July 2016 – June 2020

Performing Arts Department

Capital High School – Charleston, West Virginia

- Director of Bands
 - 80+ Member “Pride of Capital High” Marching Band, Competitive
 - 9th Grade Concert Band
 - 10th – 12th Grade Concert Band
 - Jazz Ensemble
 - “6th Man Band” Pep Band
 - “VIP” Show Choir Band
 - Music Director for Spring Musical
- Guitar I/II Teacher
- Music Appreciation
- AP Music Theory

Director of Bands, Choir, Theatre; July 2014 – July 2016

Gilmer County High School – Glenville, West Virginia

- Director of Marching Band, Pep Band, Concert Band (Grades 7-12)
 - 2015 West Virginia State Marching Band Champions, Class A
- General Music Teacher (Grades 7-8)
- Theatre Director (Grades 9-12)
- Choir Director (Grades 9-12)

Adjunct Instructor of Trumpet; Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

School of Music

Marshall University – Huntington, West Virginia

- Teach weekly trumpet lessons to undergraduate students.
- Coach chamber ensembles.
- Conduct competitive trumpet ensemble.
- Assist students in preparation of various performances and juries, including their sophomore hearing and junior recital.

Graduate Assistant; Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

School of Music

Marshall University – Huntington, West Virginia

- Marshall University Marching Thunder and Concert Bands
 - Assist Director of Bands with Recruitment.
 - Assist with all aspects of marching band rehearsal; teaching marching drill and music.
 - Organize band and field equipment at all rehearsals, football games, trips, and exhibition performances.
 - Assist with planning, organizing, setup, copying and distributing music for concert band rehearsals.
 - Assist with planning, organizing, and facilitating the annual Middle School and High School Honor Band festivals.
 - Lead and conduct Pep-Band at home basketball games.
- Jazz Studies Program, Jazz Librarian
 - Reorganized the Jazz Music Library and established a new filing system.
 - Assisted in planning, organizing, and facilitating the 2014 45th Annual Winter Jazz Festival.
 - Recording Technician for the School of Music.
 - Jazz-MU-Tazz summer jazz camp assistant.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

- Founded Indiana Wesleyan University's inaugural marching band program in 2020
 - *First performance – Fall 2021*
- Developed curriculum, instrumentation, traditions, recruiting strategy, and administrative infrastructure.
- Oversaw budgeting, equipment acquisition, staffing, and long-term strategic planning.
- Worked with facilities in the construction and remodeling of the Marching Wildcat's Practice Facility (indoor and outdoor space), *Kindley Hall*
- Built partnerships with athletics, admissions, and community organizations.
- Led the ensemble to national recognition through the 2025 Metallica "For Whom the Band Tolls" Marching Band Competition, resulting in \$10,000 worth of new equipment.

AWARDS & HONORS

- Honorary Member, National Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma (2026)
- "President's Award for Meritorious Service", Indiana Wesleyan University (2022)
- "Rookie of the Year", Capital High School (2017)
- "Outstanding Mentor" Award, West Virginia Governor's School for the Arts (2016)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Guest Speaker, Tau Beta Sigma NCD Convention, "Women in Music" (2026)
- Metallica's "For Whom the Band Tolls" Marching Band Competition
 - *IWU Marching Wildcats, Division II/III 3rd Place & \$10,000 Prize Winner (2025)*
- Marching Band Adjudicator – Indiana Scholastic Circuit (2022 – Present)
- Presenter, Indiana Wesleyan University President's Gathering (2023)
- Trumpet Adjudicator, IMEA Intercollegiate Band (2022)
- Revised and edited the West Virginia Instrumental Music Content Standards (2017-2018)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Tau Beta Sigma - *Honorary Member*
- IMEA
- Indiana Bandmasters Association
- CBDNA
- WVMEA
- National Association for Music Education
- Jazz Education Network
- International Trumpet Guild
- Delta Omicron

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE

- Indiana Wesleyan University (2020 – Present)
 - IWU Marching Band
 - IWU Wind Ensemble
 - IWU Pep Band
- Wildcat All Star Band (2023 – 2025)
 - Director and Coordinator
 - Partnership with Drum Corps International
- North Central West Virginia Honor Band (2022)
 - Guest Conductor; Held at West Virginia Wesleyan College
- Capital High School (2016-2020)
 - “Pride of Capital High” Marching Band
 - Spring Musical Instrument Music Director
 - *Legally Blonde, The Wedding Singer*
 - “VIP” Show Choir Band
 - 9th Grade Concert Band
 - 10th – 12th Grade Concert Band
 - Jazz Ensemble
 - Pep Band
 - Kanawha County All County Band
 - All Kanawha County Schools Mass Band
- Gilmer County High School (2014-2016)
 - Marching Band
 - Concert Band
 - Pep Band
 - Concert Choir
- Marshall University (2012-2014)
 - Symphonic Band
 - Wind Symphony
 - Pep Band
 - Trumpet Ensemble
 - Marching Band

PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

- Alpha Brass, Anderson, Indiana (2024 – Present)
- Indiana Wesleyan University Orchestra (2025 – 2026)
- *Little Women*, Indiana Wesleyan University (2026)
- *42nd Street*, Angola High School (2024)
- *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Manchester University (2024)
- Indianapolis Children's Choir (2023)
- Portsmouth, Ohio "All-Stars" (December 2019)
- Huntington Symphony Orchestra (2013-2017)
- *The Wiz*, Charleston Light Opera Guild (2016)
- *Guest Performing Artist*, Glenville State College Jazz Ensemble (2015)
- International Trumpet Guild Conference (2014)
- *Semi-Finalist, Ensemble Division*, National Trumpet Competition (2011)
- Montreux Jazz Festival, Switzerland (2009)
- Jazz a Juan Festival, France (2009)
- Marshall University Faculty Brass Quintet (2010 – 2014)
- Tommy Money Orchestra
- West Virginia Brass Quintet
- Lipzz German Band
- River Cities Jazz Ensemble
- Marshall University 12.0 / 12.1 Jazz Ensemble
- Marshall University Wind Symphony
- Marshall University Symphony Orchestra
- Marshall University "The Looking Glass"
- Marshall University Brass Quintet and Trumpet Ensemble
- Marshall University Choral Union
- *The Wedding Singer; Legally Blonde*, Huntington Outdoor Theatre
- *The Sound of Music*, Paramount Arts Center
- *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, Marshall University Theatre
- *Into the Woods; Once Upon a Mattress*, First Stage Theatre
- *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Grace Christian Schools
- *Titanic*, 5th Avenue Theatre
- Many special events across Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, and South Carolina.