

Terry Brooks

Terry Brooks is in his seventh year as Executive Director at Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA). Kentucky Youth Advocates is the only group in the Commonwealth that focuses on children, youth and families through multiple policy lenses. That unique role means that the mission of KYA is as simple as it is profound – to make Kentucky the best place in America to be young. As the independent voice for Kentucky’s children and youth for more than thirty years, KYA addresses policy issues in a variety of areas, including economic well-being, health, safety, early childhood, K-12 education, immigrant/refugee youth, and juvenile justice. KYA is the state’s KIDS COUNT group and also is the state affiliate for the Center on Budget’s tax and budget initiative. Additionally, KYA is the Kentucky representative in Voices of America’s Children and also a partner with America’s Promise Alliance. These policy initiatives combine rigorous research, public engagement, program implementation and legislative/executive advocacy at both the state and national levels.

Before joining KYA, Dr. Brooks served as a teacher, principal and central office senior administrator in a variety of districts throughout Kentucky. His work in education reform and leadership has been cited by a number of sources. These include: “Learning in America” (McNeil/Lehrer PBS Series), Moral Leadership (Sergiovanni), Allies in Reform (Kohli), Successful Schools for Early Adolescents (Lipsitz), and Horace’s Hope (Sizer). Brooks has authored a number of publications, including Lessons in Innovation (SUNY/Columbia Press). Recent presentations include a keynote entitled “Senioritis” at the White House Summit on High Schools, “Innovation and High Stakes” at the senior leadership conference of the National Center on the Education and the Economy, and “Doppelganger Leadership” at Case Western Reserve. After earning his doctorate, Brooks accepted the appointment of Senior Associate for Reform at the Boston-based Community Training and Assistance Center. In this position, Brooks led a team consisting of educators, business leaders, and health and human service professionals with a focus on turn-around projects in a variety of American communities, including Cleveland (OH), Jackson (MS), and Newark (NJ). Those projects focused on community-wide health, welfare, economic development and education initiatives.