



2023 Candidate for 2024 Board of Directors
**ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS
OFFICIALS INTERNATIONAL**

GINA LANIER, SFO

Chief Financial Officer
Adams 12 Five Star Schools
Thornton, Colorado

BIOGRAPHY

Gina Lanier began her career in school finance and operations in 2005. Currently the chief financial officer for Adams 12 Five Star Schools in Thornton, Colorado, just north of Denver, she previously was served as controller for Aurora Public Schools.

Lanier received her undergraduate degree in accounting and MBA with a concentration in accounting from Saint Leo University located in Florida. She is a Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations (SFO).

An active member of ASBO International since 2012, Lanier currently serves on the Certificate of Excellence and Educational Advisory committees. Lanier served as the president of the Colorado Association of School Business Officials in 2021-2022, and has served in leadership roles for various Colorado organizations, including the State Financial Policies and Procedures Committee, the State Special Education Fiscal Advisory Committee, and the Colorado Advisory Committee on Governmental Accounting.

VISION STATEMENT

The Association of School Business Officials is the premier professional association for financial and operational leaders of school systems. As public education continues to experience challenges in recruiting and retaining school business leaders, ASBO will connect and serve this global community to provide professional development, networking and mentoring opportunities that attract and develop the next generation of leaders. Through leading edge learning opportunities, advocacy, recognition and certificate programs, ASBO members will have the opportunity to gain critical skills to serve their school system with a high level of professionalism, integrity and accountability.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

What inspired you to pursue a position on the board, and what unique skills or experiences do you bring to the table that make you a strong candidate for the role?

I was inspired to pursue a position on the board through connecting the impact my local affiliate has on school business professionals and the broader reach that the national board has on the profession. I have been incredibly fortunate to experience and benefit from the incredible professional development and networking opportunities and truly believe that if we provide and encourage these opportunities to our upcoming leaders, we can encourage many to continue to grow and become future leaders of school systems.

I was also fortunate to have joined my local affiliate at the same time that Bill Sutter was initially running for an ASBO Board seat. I've had the pleasure to watch his journey and see first-hand the outcomes for membership of the hard work he has put into both our local affiliate and ASBO International. As a "get it done" person, I was truly inspired by Bill to find more ways for me to get involved to give back the amazing gift I've been given through my affiliation with ASBO. Having the ability to pick up my phone or send a quick email to friends around the world to ask a quick question, get advice, or just check in has truly provided me with an advantage that my peers who have not made these connections are missing out on.

Currently, schools serve a more diverse student body than ever before and face heightened expectations for educational reform, improved student test scores, safe learning environments, and preparing students for a future that is yet to be envisioned. In the face of dwindling resources, what is the most effective way for school business officials to assist their school systems in meeting these expectations?

As more and more pressures are placed on schools while resources continue to dwindle, I believe the most effective way for school business officials to assist their school system in meeting these expectations is to be a thought partner with others in the organization to brainstorm, prioritize and plan with a solution mindset. "The way we have always done it" mentality must be pushed aside. Flexibility, while maintaining fiscal integrity and standards is crucial. School business professionals must be willing and able to work together to find innovative solutions.

ASBO International provides excellent opportunities for school business officials around the world to connect and collaborate as we work to find these solutions. We are so fortunate to work in an industry that not only allows this collaborative work, but actually encourages it.

In your opinion, what is the most important issue school business officials will face during the next five years, and how should ASBO International begin to address that issue now?

I believe that the most important issue school business officials will face during the next five years is related to the staffing crisis in many industries have more openings than qualified, available staff. I recently read an article that stated that 200,000 accountants left the accounting profession in 2022. Just on the financial side, we will have to compete at a level for financial staff that we have not experienced in the past. How will we encourage the next generation to want to enter and stay in this space? Similar shifts are happening in other school business professions.

ASBO International should begin focusing on encouraging membership at many levels within school organizations to help develop, grow and retain our future leaders. A great step is the district professional learning memberships that will give access to professional development that traditionally has been limited to those who can travel for conferences. I believe this should include expanded trainings for entry level positions.