

**Application Information**

**PART ONE - CONTACT**

1. Please provide your contact information:

[redacted]

Years of Experience in SQL Server: 14

**PART TWO - EDUCATION**

2. Education (list all appropriate types of educational experience - Degree, Diploma, University - please detail location):

Bachelor of Science in Psychology (1993)

University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO

**PART THREE - COMPANY/PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND**

3. Describe your company's business: Financial Investment Firm

4. Please provide your current job title: Database Administrator

5. Please describe your primary job responsibilities:

- Ensure the health of over 100 SQL Server database servers for all departments.
- Maintain and configure all SQL Servers, including clustered environments.
- Plan and implement High Availability and Disaster Recovery for multiple mission- and business-critical systems.
- Support Application Development teams through application lifecycle including code review, performance tuning, and system configuration tuning.

**PART FOUR - STATEMENT OF INTENTIONS (Short Essay Format)**

*(Please note that these answers should relate to your public campaign platform)*

6. How do you believe PASS can better serve the SQL community in the next five years?  
I feel PASS does a very good job currently of serving the SQL community. I look forward to advancements in automating and to streamlining processes for Chapter Leaders and SQL Saturday organizers. (Examples: automating book requests, continued improvement of Chapter Leader and Regional Mentor communication)  
I also would like to see the US SQL Rally program redesigned into a viable event. With the research showing a significant number of first time attendees at the Dallas event, PASS will miss out on a great opportunity to build its membership if it is not revived. I would like to help write

clearer guidelines and requirements for the SQL Rally, teams of volunteers could be better prepared to create a successful event for both the community and PASS. With a better understanding of needs for the venue and the role of the hosting group, we can create successful events. I propose that we also dedicate a Board Member for Rally as part of their active portfolio.

7. What do you perceive is the current state of PASS?

Overall, the community perceives the PASS organization positively. We see an increase in participation on many fronts, with SQL Saturdays and new Chapters (both physical and virtual) being a good metric for success. It still seems to be the curse of any given year, though, that there is some kind of fallout due to certain individuals taking issue with decisions made by the Board and then broadcasting them in a way to indicate a personal slight against a given individual. As someone who has worked for several years with many different members of the community, I understand that there are times decisions which will not be popular must be made for the best interest of the organization. I would also venture that only a minority of PASS participants have this negative attitude which comes out when they are displeased with those decisions. However, as with the bad apple in the bushel, if not addressed, these negative perceptions can multiply and breed discontent with the organization as a whole. I believe PASS communications have become more readily accessible to those who wish to read about activities of the Board, and the processes involved have evolved to a state of acceptable transparency.

8. Tell us about your accomplishments in other volunteer organizations; detail the key things you learned from these experiences:

As a volunteer for a historical re-enactment group, I have held office at the local level as a membership coordinator. In this role, I answer emails and hold phone conversations with people interested in joining our organization and encourage them to attend events and meetings. One of the key things I learned from doing this was to follow up with prospective members. That initial email or phone call was often just the beginning. Sometimes, it would take 3 or more emails or 30 minutes on the phone to make sure the person was fully informed about the organization and have the correct expectations involving participation.

I also performed in demonstrations and recruiting efforts at local schools and public facilities. In these public venues, I acted as a tour guide for onlookers to explain what was going on and discuss with them any of the numerous ways they could choose to be involved. I learned that my level of enthusiasm about what we were doing was very contagious to new people when coming into the group.

9. If elected to the PASS Board, what goal would you set to contribute to the benefit of PASS? How would you work within the current PASS organization to accomplish that goal? How would this benefit the SQL Server community?

As a PASS Board member, I want to promote the positive image of the organization. PASS has many training and networking opportunities, yet there is so much work to be done in communicating that message out to the SQL Server Community at large. I would enjoy the opportunity to bring the message of PASS to Universities and other higher-education facilities, targeting students who have not yet entered the workforce, or those making a career change. As part of the SQL Saturday Chicago team, we were able to provide training to DeVry students with a 1/2 day *Introduction to SQL Server* course. IT will continue to be a growth industry for many decades to come. I propose to help PASS establish a university chapter program similar to

those of other international professional associations, like AITP or the IEEE Computer Society, starting with a report on the approach taken by other professional associations and, within a year, a full proposal discussing how PASS might implement its own university chapter program. I am confident we can work with more DeVry locations as well as other institutions to bring PASS' resources of free training onto their radar, thereby building a relationship between the PASS community and higher education, and building PASS membership.

Our population is aging and we need to encourage the next generation to become interested in our community and build upon the strong foundation we already have.

**PART FIVE - LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT (Short Essay Format)**

10. Please describe your management and leadership background, listing specific examples of teams or projects:

While I do not directly manage any employees in the office, it is my responsibility to bring teams of people together to achieve a common goal. As an example, I remediate old SQL Server Reporting Services installations on a regular basis. This impacts every development group in the company, plus the infrastructure team. The key to success for this project is coming up with a timeline that was feasible for the development teams. Once we established that the infrastructure team was not trying to 'bully' the development teams by removing old hardware, they willingly worked on the project and are now nearing successful completion of Phase 1, on time and within budget. In this project, open communication and compromise are the keys to success especially considering the divergent goals of the various teams.

11. Are you or have you been a member of any board (volunteer or professional)? Please describe:

Yes, I currently operate my own professional dance company and serve as President for our Board of Directors. I have been in this role since 2001. We plan and conduct numerous dance performances throughout the year, and are hired to teach at key events across the country. I participate in bringing in new members (dancers) and training them. I also determine our dance curriculum, plus I set the artistic direction of our company.

Our largest project each year is a dance event held in Chicago which brings in 6 or more instructors over 4 days with an attendance of over 300. Our event has grown steadily over the past 7 years and now involves negotiating contracts with convention-level facilities and setting the program for 4 class tracks. Our event exhibit hall brings in over 25 vendors from across the country and I approve or reject vendors plus coordinate vendor logistics. The budget for the 2012 event was \$54,000. My personal role is to manage the different event teams, make sure we stay on schedule, run the registration desk during the event, and handle all the financial responsibilities. Other teams manage the marketing and teacher contracts and vendor assignments, plus production of the shows.

12. Do you have formal management or leadership training? If so, please provide details of this training and an example of a time this training was directly beneficial:

While I do not have any formal management training, I have participated in many leadership workshops throughout my life. I was involved with Air Force ROTC in both high school and in

college, serving as Corps Commander over 6 classrooms for my Senior year of high school. As with any military training, I was required to learn how to build teams and manage projects through to completion. The most difficult part of leading any team is to earn the respect of the people. I also attended a Leadership Conference one summer which I earned by being nominated by my teachers. Also, I have successfully led SQL Saturday teams together for 3 years in Chicago.

This experience is very beneficial when 'rallying the troops', whether in the office, at home, or serving on PASS committees such as SQL Saturday organizer, Chapter Leader, Program Committee and Election Review Committee. I like to find a good fit for the volunteers because when people are happy with what they are doing and feel they are making a positive contribution, the entire organization benefits.

13. Have you participated in any strategic decision-making processes? Please provide details of specific instances:

As a SQL Saturday organizer, the ability to see the big picture of the event from the onset is very important. For our first event three years ago, we had to determine the best time of year and an available location. Living in Chicago, this can be challenging as venues fill up quickly and can be very expensive. Through a very thoughtful process of considering venue types, weather conditions, placement of similar events and many other factors, we settled on a March event at a hotel. While the event was a resounding success, the venue proved to have some significant challenges, so we chose to move the event the following year. Choosing a location, securing sponsors, and managing a schedule of 5+ tracks plus feeding 300+ attendees is certainly a team effort.

14. Please describe your background/experience in dealing with organizational finances, including the size of the organization and sizes/types of budgets involved:

I currently manage a \$54,000 budget for a large dance training event held each year in Chicago which brings in 6 or more instructors over 4 days with an attendance of over 300. My role is to collect the revenues, transfer funds between accounts and make payments to the facilities and contracted vendors. Plus, I arrange for all the travel, lodging and payment for each instructor.

**PART SIX - ACTIVITIES (Special Interest Groups, Committees or other activities)**

15. Please describe your past volunteer history with PASS. Who from PASS (HQ and Board of Directors) did you work with? How did you interact with them to meet your volunteer objectives?

I have served PASS in many different roles over the years as a Local Chapter Leader, Midwest Regional Mentor, Women In Technology Virtual Chapter Leader, SQL Saturday Women In Technology Outreach Coordinator, Election Review Committee member, SQL Saturday organizer and most recently on the Program Committee.

It has been my pleasure to have made the acquaintance of and work with many members from the PASS HQ team both past and present. Of the current team, I have worked directly with or been in communications with the following: Judy Christiansen, Al Shuler, Lana Montgomery, Michelle Nalliah, Alison MacDonald, Karla Landrum, Anika Polisen, Marcella McKeown and Wesley Chang. Of course, with Sanjeet Gandham on maternity leave, we (the WIT Chapter) do miss

having her on our team but Lana has been doing a fabulous job filling in.

As for working with the Board of Directors, I have known Bill Graziano since my first day of my very first PASS event, as well as Denise McInerney. Denise brought me in at the very onset of the official Women In Technology Virtual Chapter creation – back when they were still Special Interest Groups – and both her and Bill have been great mentors in building my professional outlook. I worked with Douglas McDowell as a Virtual Chapter Leader when he held that portfolio. Both Adam Jorgensen and Rob Farley have been guests at the Chicago SQL Saturday event. Previously, I have worked with Bill Graziano, Kevin Kline, Rick Bolesta, Andy Warren and Joe Webb on the Election Review Committee after the election cycle of 2010.

16. Please give an example of a project you worked on for PASS that you followed through to completion. Describe how your specific contribution has benefited the PASS organization:

I was a member of the Election Review Committee (ERC) after the 2010 election cycle. We spent several hours in conference calls over the course of approximately 8 months in order to review the election procedures as they were at the time and make recommendations for improvements in the process. We had many thoughtful and sometimes contradictory conversations about use of the Nom Com, ranking candidates, issues involving transparency, qualifications desired of candidates and the importance of the interview process. While the amount of time involved was significant, it was a very positive experience and I personally feel we affected positive change in the processes. I believe PASS membership at large has greater confidence in the Board Election process because of the work done by that ERC.

17. Detail your participation in other volunteer organizations/boards (be specific about your contribution and in what capacity):

As mentioned in answers to other questions above, I have been or am currently involved with the following organizations:

- Blue Lotus Tribe Dance Company. A not-for-profit dance company dedicated to bringing quality performances and instruction to the bellydance community. I serve as the President on the Board of Directors and manage the largest annual bellydance convention in the Midwest.
- Society for Creative Anachronisms. A 501(3)(c) organization dedicated to the study of world history pre-1600. I held office for 7 years locally as Chatelaine, welcoming newcomers to the organization and working with recruitment.

18. Please provide details of your social media presence

Twitter: @wendy\_dance

Blog: <http://wendyverse.blogspot.com>

I am also on FaceBook, however, that account is mostly for family and dance related activities.

## **PART SEVEN - OTHER ACTIVITIES**

19. Detail other professional certifications:

I am not certified at this time.

20. Detail any awards received:

PASSion Award winner 2010

Idera ACE Program Community Educator 2011/12

Not an award specifically, but I had the highest rated session at the SSWUG Spring 2010 conference.

While I have been previously nominated for the SQL Server MVP award, I do not hold that title.

21. Detail some of your more recent published professional articles, books, etc.:

I do have a blog which is up at <http://wendyverse.blogspot.com>.

I am also currently working on a chapter for a SQL 2012 book for Apress: Data Replication Techniques.

In the past two years, I was part of a Women In Tech article series which was published on SQL Server Central.

## PART EIGHT - REFERENCES AND BACKGROUND CHECK

### *Volunteer References*

22. PASS volunteer reference #1 (please provide daytime phone and email)

a. Reference Name: Denise McInerney

[redacted]

b. Statement of Support from Reference:

I first met Wendy at the PASS Summit in 2004. She became the first member of the Women in Technology SIG (after me.) Wendy has played a major role in the formation and growth of WIT in PASS. She served as co-leader of the group for several years. Wendy has made many contributions to WIT; most especially she has been tireless in drawing in others to get involved.

Wendy has a real talent for working with other volunteers. This, along with her excellent communication skills and ability to see many sides of an issue make her a strong applicant for the PASS Board of Directors. As a Director Wendy will make a positive contribution to leading the organization forward. I enthusiastically endorse her candidacy.

23. PASS volunteer reference #2 (please provide daytime phone and email)

a. Reference Name: Aaron Lowe

[redacted]

b. Statement of Support from Reference:

Wendy and I met in the fall of 2009 and it was at that meeting that we decided to organize the first SQLSaturday Chicago. Since then we have worked together and with others to organize 3 SQLSaturdays in Chicago (2010, 2011, and 2012). Wendy has very good organization skills and an ability to "be in the moment" which has helped her greatly. When she commits herself to a goal, she epitomizes the attitude of "no job too big and no job too small", instead focusing on results. She is not afraid to make decisions, even if they are

unpopular ones. Possibly her greatest asset that sets her apart is the fact that she's a relationship person. She seeks and cultivates relationships which is obviously a large part of what a community organization is about and a differentiator from many within a technical community.

24. PASS volunteer reference #3 (please provide daytime phone and email)

a. Reference Name: Joe Webb

[redacted]

b. Statement of Support from Reference:

I've known Wendy professionally through PASS for many years now. During that time, I could see that she had a heart for the SQL Server community and that she worked tirelessly to contribute to it and make it a better place. She was constantly volunteering for roles and being asked to participate on teams. But it wasn't until I Chaired the PASS Election Review Committee that I had an opportunity to work closely with Wendy.

During the ERC's 8-month review of the PASS election practices, I grew to appreciate that Wendy not only has a heart for the community but she also has another attribute that's critical for success as a director – discernment. Wendy has good, practical business sense. She understands the intricacies and nuances with working with the community appreciates the "business" side of PASS. Her perspective on matters is balanced and she does not shy away from difficult decisions.

As a former board member, I have full confidence in Wendy's ability to represent the community well, to make decisions on our behalf that are not only altruistic but are fiscally and practically responsible.

### ***Public References***

25. PASS public reference #1 (please provide daytime phone and email)

a. Reference Name: Kevin Kline

[redacted]

d. Statement of Support from Reference:

I had the pleasure of meeting Wendy on her first trip out to Seattle to attend a PASS Summit. Wendy was striking then, and now, for her contiguous enthusiasm. Wendy does settle for idly soaking up the benefits of other people's hard work. She is one of those rare persons who starts to consider how to give back right away. Wendy immediately saw the benefit of PASS community and went to work right away to bring that benefit back to the Chicago area. Wendy isn't afraid of hard work or of planting small seeds today, then painstakingly investing the months and perhaps years needed to bring those seeds to fruition. This tenacity and attention to the long-term is amply demonstrated in the outstanding SQL Saturdays that Wendy oversees in Chicago. Every speaker I know wants to be at Wendy's event, not because it is in Chicago, but because it is Wendy's event in Chicago. I give my full support to Wendy's nomination for the PASS board of directors, convinced in

the strength of her character, and confirmed in the value of her talents. -Kevin Kline, PASS President Emeritus 2005-2008.

26. PASS public reference #2 (please provide daytime phone and email)

a. Reference Name: Allen White

[redacted]

b. Statement of Support from Reference:

I've known Wendy for three or four years now, having worked together on the Election Review Committee and were partners on the PASS Quiz Bowl a few years ago. I was impressed by her contributions to the conversations we had on the ERC in putting together the rules for the PASS Board elections process, as the issues were critical to the public perception of the integrity of the elections process. We had discussions that could have easily become ugly, and she always helped keep them objective and positive. This skill is critical to serving on a board with such a (necessarily) diverse makeup. I also was a speaker at the Chicago SQL Saturday #67 in March, 2011, where Wendy led the team putting together a great event that had something like 400 attendees. An event of this size needs a solid leader to keep everything running smoothly, and Wendy managed it with a smile on her face the whole time. Personally, Wendy and I have become good friends, and she allowed me to leave my car at her home when in 2010 I took the train from Chicago to Seattle for the PASS Summit, and when my return train was delayed by 5 hours, she drove into downtown Chicago to pick me up at the station, almost an hour drive each way. Her PASSion award indicates the level of support and commitment to PASS she always exhibits, and the fact that she's been nominated for MVP indicates the support she has from the community. I truly believe she'd be a great board member based on her past accomplishments and her ability to get people with disparate views to find common ground and work out a solution that benefits the entire community.

*Work Related Reference – Optional*

27. Work-related reference (please provide daytime phone and email)

a. Reference Name: Kevin P. Davis, Ph. D.

[redacted]

b. Statement of Support from Reference:

I have worked with Wendy at Calamos Investments for the past year, and I have been immensely impressed with her and her work. She has led multiple cross-team small projects in her role as Database Administrator, and I have worked with her closely on these. Wendy is capable of organizing large efforts even with shifting priorities and timelines. She is easy to work with, gregarious and contagiously enthusiastic.

That enthusiasm bleeds over into a rich life outside of work, but still in the development community. She demonstrates commitment to both her own growth and the growth of others through frequent conference appearances, not just as a speaker but an organizer. Such enthusiasm and commitment is rare and refreshing to see. The PASS Board of Directors would benefit from Wendy's energy, and I wholeheartedly endorse her for the position.

**Disclaimer**

28. Have you ever been charged with a felony? If yes, were you convicted, and (briefly) what were the circumstances? No.
29. I agree to the time and travel commitments required for this office: Yes
30. My employer is aware of and agrees to the time and travel commitments required for this office: Yes

**PART NINE - SIGNATURE**

31. "I, Gwendolyn M Pastrick, hereby certify, on this date, 8 Aug 2012, that all information I have provided or will provide in this document is true, and I agree to abide by all the terms and conditions listed within this document.

I agree to be considered a candidate for the position of Director-at-Large for the Professional Association for SQL Server. I understand that my email address may be made available to select PASS bloggers - screened and approved by PASS - during the campaigning period for the purpose of blogger interviews with candidates.

I am aware that the term for which I am applying begins January 1, 2013 and ends December 31, 2014. If elected, I agree to fulfil the duties and obligations of the elected position to the best of my ability." *(Please answer yes or no to all of the above):* yes.