

Teacher Fellow Alumni Biographies

Susan L. Adkins

Detroit Public Schools, Detroit, Michigan



Susan Adkins has been teaching upper elementary school students since 1996 and is a National Board Certified Teacher with Detroit Public Schools. She earned her Master of Arts in Education from the University of Michigan with a specialization in Reading. Her Bachelor of Science in Education Degree is from Wayne State University. Susan has been published in the Michigan Reading Journal. She spends her spare time working with candidates for National Board Certification, and is a member of several different professional organizations. In addition, Susan has personally wrote and earned competitive grants. She frequents The Henry Ford with her classes, and especially enjoys visiting Greenfield Village. Susan was a 2010 Teacher Fellow and she served as a Teacher Fellow Mentor during the 2011-2012 session.

Annette Alexander-Frank

Unis Middle School, Dearborn, Michigan



Annette has been an arts educator since 1985 in both public school settings, in workshops, and artist residencies. She is a graduate of Wayne State University with a master's degree in Art Education. She was selected as the Michigan Film/Video Teacher of the Year in 1999, and in 2003 was awarded the Arts Achievement award given to outstanding alumni of Wayne State Fine and Performing Arts programs. Annette currently teaches middle school in Dearborn Public Schools at Unis Middle School, where she is coordinator of Student Programs for Digital Arts Film & Television (DAFT), which allows her to oversee several workshops, including Art in Motion and the weekend residential Student Animation Workshop for advanced high school students. She has used the resources of The Henry Ford many times to augment her teaching.

Cynthia Andrews

Ann Arbor Learning Community, Ann Arbor, Michigan



Cynthia Andrews received her B.S. from Eastern Michigan University in elementary education (science and social studies). Mrs. Andrews has varied teaching experiences, ranging from home-schooling to teaching in both urban and rural school settings. She has been teaching at the Ann Arbor Learning Community in Ann Arbor, Michigan since 2005. Presently, Mrs. Andrews teaches sixth through eighth grade science. She has also taught a multi-age 4/5 grade classroom for seven years. In the past, she sponsored students for *Michigan History Day*; subsequently, 26 of her students have won at the state youth division level since 2006. Additionally, Mrs. Andrews attended the NEH Teacher Workshop, *America's Industrial Revolution at The Henry Ford*, as a teacher participant and a Master Teacher. She is currently a 2012 *Eastern Michigan Writing Project* participant at Eastern Michigan University. She returned to The Henry Ford to serve as a Teacher Fellow Mentor for the 2011-2012 session.

Connie Atkisson

O.W. Holmes Elementary, Detroit, Michigan



Connie Atkisson teaches science to grades 3-8 at O. W. Holmes School in Southwest Detroit. Ms. Atkisson holds a Masters in Education, Montessori certification, and has earned more than 30 graduate hours toward a PhD in science education. She has developed two successful private schools in Ohio and Michigan, served on several MEAP committees, runs a variety of after school science programs and developed curriculum for Detroit Public Schools and several non-formal educational programs. She is a trained DAPCEP engineering teacher. Ms. Atkisson has received several teaching awards including the Walter P Chrysler

Excellence in Education, the Greening of Detroit Teacher of the Year and was invited to the White House by the President in recognition of her work in science. Ms. Atkisson and one of her students were guests at the White House and toured many of the famous sites as guests of the Department of Defense. Her student spent time with the President and sat with him on the platform during the Science Fair.

Deborah Bejune



Deborah Bejune taught Kindergarten at the New Morning School in Plymouth, MI. Her certifications are in elementary education, math, and computers in education. She has also earned her Masters in the Art of Teaching in Reading and Language Arts. Deborah received a 2011 grant from Petsmart to purchase fish and a fish habitat, and a 2010 grant to study lifecycles from MDSTA. She is a member of NAEYC, and has given presentations at staff and district workshops.

Andy Christopherson

Redford Union High School, Redford Township, Michigan



Andy Christopherson has taught social studies at Redford Union High School since 1996. Andy is interested in project based learning and the potential it has to make learning more relevant for students. Andy received his BA in History from U of M Dearborn, a MA in Instructional Technology from Wayne State University, and EdS. K-12 Administration from Michigan State University. In addition, he has been recognized by the State Superintendent and Michigan DOE for work on

aligning technology resources to State curriculum benchmarks as well as won several technology grants. The Henry Ford has been important to Andy since he came here and was inspired while he was a student.

Vickie Dee Weiss

City School, Grand Blanc, Michigan



Vickie Weiss is a multi-age elementary teacher at City School in Grand Blanc, Michigan. She has taught for 48+ years. Despite the distance, Vickie and her students visited the Henry Ford this year. In addition, Vickie has traveled to Japan, Ukraine, Russia, and Lithuania as part of teacher groups. She has studied with teachers at the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C.; NASA Glenn Research Center; the Bronx Zoo; the JASON Project in various locations, and the Mickelson Math Science Academy.

Vickie has received many awards and recognitions, including the *President's Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Primary Education*. Vickie has served on the Board of Directors for the National Council for Social Studies; been a committee member for the NCSS-CBC Social Studies Notable Trade Books Review Committee, and currently serves on the Carter G. Woodson Book Award Committee.

Maryann Dreske

Novi High School, Novi, Michigan



Maryann Dreske earned her BA in Accounting from Michigan State University's Honors College and a MBA degree from The University of Detroit-Mercy. After more than 20 years in accounting and finance, she received her teaching certificate through Wayne State University, and a Masters in the Art of Teaching from Marygrove College. She has taught at Novi High School since 2003. This past year, Maryann began a US History sheltered classroom for English Language Learners and has a strong interest in student literacy. In addition, she has received many awards and grants, including a Best Buy Award, DTE Award, NEF Grant, and Ashland College NEH grant. Maryann, a member of the Henry Ford, has repeatedly employed the resources of The Henry Ford to teach her students through many fieldtrips.

Kelly Eddy

Winston Churchill High School, Livonia, Michigan



Kelly Eddy received her B.A. from Western Michigan University. Ms Eddy began teaching in the Livonia Public Schools in 1997, and has taught Global Studies, World History, AP US History, and US History and Humanities. She has attended several summer seminars offered by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Gilder Lehrman Institute, and Ashland University. In 2009, she was awarded a James Madison Fellowship, which will cover the expenses of her secondary advanced degree. She will be attending Ashland University in Ohio for a Masters degree in American History and Government. Furthermore, she served as a Teacher Fellow mentor during the 2011-2012 session. Most recently, Ms. Eddy was awarded the 2012 "State History Teacher of the Year" by the Gilder Lehrman Institute.

Mary Elizabeth Foulke

C.L. Bailey Elementary School, Hillsdale, Michigan



Mary Foulke received her BA in Social Science and Elementary Education from Spring Arbor College, and a MA in Curriculum and Instruction from Michigan State. She has been a teacher in Hillsdale since 1986, and currently is teaching 3rd grade. Mary has developed units to teach "Michigan Studies" for Hillsdale Schools, as well as initiating and leading the Hillsdale History Club, and American Girl Club. In October 2005 she was the McConnell Award Winner for Elementary History Teacher of the Year. Her professional affiliations include being the President of MCHE, a board member of the Hillsdale County Historical Society, and Social Studies Chair for Hillsdale Community Schools. Mary has participated in several workshops, including four summers worth of NEH Workshops, including: "America's Industrial Revolution at The Henry Ford." Furthermore, she

served as a Teacher Fellow Mentor during the 2011-2012 session. Mrs. Foulke brings her 3rd graders to Greenfield Village yearly.

Amber Franzdorf

Defiance Middle School, Defiance, Ohio



Amber Franzdorf teaches 8th grade science at Defiance Middle School in Defiance, Ohio. She has been teaching since 2000, and has her certification in 7-12 Science and Computers. She also has a Master's degree in classroom technology. Amber is the middle school science department chairperson, and also a member of her school's "Building Leadership Team." She has enjoyed the ability to collaborate with teachers from other schools, which is an opportunity that the leadership team has provided for her.

Marjorie Gibson

Jo Brighton Skills Center, Wyandotte, Michigan



Marjorie Gibson teaches in a vocational program for youth with cognitive and various other impairments. Her classroom is a commercial bakery where she helps her students learn life skills in a work environment, as well as teaching actual baking skills. She is the director of the Special Olympics program for her school, and is a member of the District Public Relations Committee. Marjorie was also a former member of the Wayne RESA Public Relations Committee. Additionally, she won the *Duane F. Brannick Award* for the volunteer work her classroom provided to the city of Trenton.

Margaret Gonzalez-Sheeran

Novi Middle School, Novi, Michigan



Margaret Gonzalez-Sheeran is a 7th grade science teacher at Novi Middle School. Margaret has an undergraduate teaching major in social studies with a minor in science from the University of Michigan. She has also earned her Master's degree in teaching students with learning disabilities, and the coinciding K-12 endorsement from Wayne State University. Mrs. Sheeran is a union representative for the Novi Education Association, and a board member of the Novi athletic Boosters. In 2010, Margaret was named as the *Science and Engineering Fair of Metro Detroit's* Teacher of the Year.

Elias Gorman

Bay High School, Bay City Village, Ohio

Elias Gorman earned both a B.A. and M.A. in history, and has been teaching since 1994. Formerly, he served as a Teacher Consultant to the Ohio Geographic Alliance for teachers of World Geography. For the past 13 years, Mr. Gorman has taught AP US history at Bay High School in Bay Village, Ohio. His student pass rate is over 90% for the AP US History exam. He has run in the Boston and New York City Marathons, and currently works with the high school cross county team.

Robin Hartnett



Robin Hartnett, a lifelong resident of the Metropolitan Detroit area, is a graduate of Michigan State University with a BS degree in Merchandising Management, as well as a Masters Degree in Education also from MSU. She has taught second, third, fifth and sixth grades in both urban and suburban Detroit schools. When Robin is not teaching in the classroom, she is teaching students of all ages, ranging from six months to 86 years old, to swim at one of the local pools. According to Robin, “making an impact on someone's life by teaching them how to do or figure something out that they couldn't before is the greatest joy!” In addition, as an “extra-curricular activity,” Robin founded a business that instructs and certifies lifesaving practices to groups and individuals. As a member and patron of The Henry Ford, she considers it to be an important part of her life. Her students routinely ask to go there; they especially enjoy the cars, carousel, and trains.

Shirley Hazlett

Willow Elementary School, Lansing, Michigan



Shirley Hazlett is a K-8 Art Specialist with the Lansing School District and has also taught all subjects at the 4-6 level. She holds a B.A. in Studio Art from Michigan State University, and completed her certification and Master's degree in Education at Spring Arbor University. Ms. Hazlett has a passion for finding the connections between the arts, cultural studies, history and other subjects, and delights in exploring these with fellow teachers. She strongly believes that project-based and site-based learning experiences deepen comprehensive learning and has worked extensively with The Michigan Historical Museum, The Michigan Women's Historical Museum, the MSU Museum and local nature centers, to create authentic, student-centered curriculum. Ms. Hazlett has participated in on-site seminars with the NAEA, NHIA, Teach America History, the Gilder-Lehrman Institute and a Fulbright-Hays GPA to Bulgaria. As a Teacher-Fellow with The Henry Ford, she contributed a site-based unit, “Innovation in 20th Century Design,” which has recently been published to their site. She is the recipient of the 2009 Elsie Maile Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award and a 2010 Regional Finalist for Michigan Teacher of the Year. As an artist, Shirley specializes in portraits, figures, live event sketches, and mural work. Follow her on Pinterest, Twitter @FindingPatterns, or at shirleyhazlett.net.

Christopher Hemler



Christopher Hemler was a classroom teacher for 6 years. He most recently taught 7th and 8th grade Social Studies at Chatterton Middle School in the Fitzgerald District in Warren. Chris is now the Curator of Education for youth, adult and digital programs at The Henry Ford. He has also been a Simmons Intern, an NEH Master Teacher, and a project coordinator at The Henry Ford. He has a BA from University of Detroit Mercy and is certified to teach middle and high school Social Studies and History. Chris is currently finishing his thesis for his Master of Arts in History from Oakland University. Chris also served as the student council advisor, and the head coach

of the Social Studies Olympiad team while at Chatterton.

Rosemary Johnson

Redford Union High School, Redford Township, Michigan



Rosemary earned her Master of Arts in Social Science in 2002 from Eastern Michigan University. She has been a Social Studies Teacher at Redford Union High School, in Redford Township, Michigan since 1998. There she has chaperoned student trips throughout Michigan, and to Washington D.C., and Europe. From 1997-2000, Rosemary worked at The Henry Ford as a Historical Presenter. Last year, Rosemary was awarded the Michigan History Foundation's 2009 Odyssey Award. In addition, Rosemary is a member of the Michigan Council of Social Studies and the

Michigan Education Association. Additionally, in 2011, Rosemary participated in the NEH "America's Industrial Revolution at The Henry Ford" workshop.

Lisa M. Koski

Trillium Academy, Taylor, Michigan



Lisa Koski has been teaching since 2001. During her career, Lisa has taught children in grades 1-3 in public, private, and charter school settings. One of her favorite places to visit with her class is the Henry Ford. In addition to teaching her second and third grade students at Trillium Academy, Lisa is a mentor to other teachers, School Improvement Plan Coordinator, and curriculum writer. She is also a teacher consultant for the Michigan Geographical Alliance, based at Central Michigan University, and a Facilitator for Project Learning Tree. In October of 2005, Lisa was honored as the

Michigan Charter School Teacher of the Year. Lisa has participated in three NEH Workshops and served on MDE's Professional Standards Commission for Teachers from 2007-2008. Lisa graduated with her M.A.T. Elementary Education from Eastern Michigan University, and holds a B.A. in Elementary Education from Saginaw Valley State University.

Cary Mannaberg

East Kentwood High School, East Kentwood, Michigan



Cary Mannaberg attended the University of Illinois in Urbana. Mr. Mannaberg initially majored in Metallurgical Engineering, but graduated with a B.S. in Ecology. He worked in labs for 4 years where he aided with research in materials science, agronomy and plant physiology. He then attended Parkland Community College in Champaign, IL where he received an Associates degree in Micro Precision Technology, and a certificate in Clock Repair. After his graduation, he worked at Schaevitz Engineering in Pennsauken, NJ where he worked on developing new accelerometers and inclinometers. Later, he worked at Neptune Research where he worked on developing small electromechanical valves. His first teaching job

was in 1986 when he launched the Micro Mechanical Program at the State Technical Institute in Plainwell, NJ, which he continued to teach for 13 years. He left teaching to work for Mann& Hummel, a German automotive supplier, as an engineer and corporate trainer, however he returned to teaching three years later. He earned a M.A. in Career and Technical Education from Western Michigan University in 2000. He

has taught Industrial Technology, and has been the Internship Coordinator at East Kentwood High School for three years.

Beth McLaren

J.D. Pierce Middle School, Waterford, Michigan



Beth McLaren has taught 8th grade U. S. History at John D. Pierce Middle School in the Waterford School District since 1997. Ms. McLaren graduated from Eastern Michigan University in 1997 with four minors in Elementary Education; Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, and Children's Literature. She ultimately became certified in Social Studies and Language Arts. In 2004, she received a Masters in Education from Marygrove College, and is currently a Team Leader in the Waterford district for 8th grade U.S. History.

Matthew Mutschler

Warren Mott High School, Warren, Michigan

Matt Mutschler received a B.A. in U.S. History from Wayne State University in 1997



and his M.A. in Education from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 2004. Matt has been teaching at Warren Mott High School since 1997 where he received both the Warren Consolidated Schools and Sallie Mae Foundation First Year Teacher of the Year award. Since then, he has been honored as the 2005-06 Warren Consolidated Schools Teacher of the Year and recognized four times as "Who's Who among America's Teachers." In addition, Matt serves as a Mentor and Supervising Teacher at Warren Mott High School, and was curriculum developer for WCS in 2004. Outside the classroom, he has been published in *Leadership for Student Activities*, and has presented at WCS District, Michigan Association of Student Councils, and Warren Mott High School. Furthermore, he served as a Teacher Fellow Mentor during the 2011-2012 session.

Monica Nick

Jefferson Elementary, Redford, Michigan



Monica Nick is a fourth grade teacher at Jefferson Elementary in Redford, Michigan, where she has taught since 2002. She inspires students through hands-on, engaging activities. Projects have included use of technology to create rap and clay animation videos, the experiential economics program, "Mini-Society", and the Veterans' Oral History Project for the U.S. Library of Congress. Most recently, Monica was a member of the southeastern Michigan Galileo Leadership Academy for teacher leaders. She has a M.A. in Teaching from Wayne State University. Prior to her education experience, Monica worked at EDS and Detroit Edison.

Tara Robinson

Northwest Elementary School, Jackson, Michigan



Tara Robinson began her teaching career in 1994, and has experience in both 4th and 5th grade classrooms for Northwest Community Schools in Jackson, Michigan. Mrs. Robinson is a Western Michigan University graduate who holds a B.S. in Elementary Education, including minors in Math, Science, and Creative Arts. She was awarded a scholarship to the NASA Space Camp in 1995, a MEEMIC Grant to attend the MSTA Conference in 2009, and has been a Battle Creek Math & Science Center trainer since 2008. She is one of six teachers who designed the R.I.S.E. Program for struggling learners at Northwest Elementary School in 2006.

Charles Sanecki

Bedford High School, Bedford, Michigan



Charles Sanecki has been teaching automotive technology at Bedford High School in Temperance Michigan since 2000. He received a Bachelors degree in Education from the University of Toledo with a major in Social Studies. He has participated in three *National Endowment for the Humanities* workshops. He studied the Iron Range and its impact on the American Industrial Revolution in Northeastern Minnesota, in 2010. He also studied the Industrial Revolution in Lowell Massachusetts in 2008, and at The Henry Ford Museum in 2007. Charles also was a participant in the June 2008 Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund program. He studied

Japanese culture and education in Japan. He is on the State of Michigan Automotive Technology Academic Alignment and the Michigan Automotive Technical Skills Committee. Mr. Sanecki also served on *the Michigan Models for Career and Technical Education Teacher Evaluation Subgroup of the CTE Research and Data Use Committee*. He also co- founded the Bedford Express FIRST robotics team. His automotive program is Automotive Service Excellence certified, and Mr. Sanecki is an ASE certified automotive technician. He is an active member of South Eastern Michigan Automotive Teachers Association; a member of the North American Council of Automotive Teachers, and the Michigan Industrial Technology Education Society. He is also a Skills USA advisor for Bedford High School.

Toni Simovski

South Lyon High School, South Lyon, Michigan



Toni Simovski earned his B. A. from the University of Michigan- Dearborn with a Double Major in History and Political Science. He earned his Master's Degree in Education from The University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School. Mr. Simovski has been teaching since 1999 at South Lyon High School where he primarily teaches AP American Government, American Government and Modern US History (1900 to present) to grades 11-12. He has won several awards

such the 2009 Michigan Social Studies Educator of the Year and the 2007 Michigan Civic Educator of the Year. He was also awarded the 2010 University of Michigan- Dearborn School of Education Alumnus of the Year. Toni was a member of the inaugural Teacher Fellowship Program with the Henry Ford in 2009 where he created itineraries and other educational material. Additionally, he served as the Head Translator for the US Military in Macedonia 1998-1999 and earned Bronze UN medals for his service.

Wayne Wheatley

Detroit Country Day School, Beverly Hills, Michigan



Wayne Wheatley graduated from Wayne State University in 2000 with a Bachelor's degree in Science Education, and is currently finishing his Masters degree in Educational Psychology at the same institution. Mr. Wheatley has been teaching since 2000. For the past five years he has taught 6th grade science and study skills at Detroit Country Day Middle School. He has taught in traditional classrooms and in informal settings such as museums, summer programs, camps, and private tutoring. He also serves on the National Science Teachers Association's Committee on Informal Science Teaching, and works part-time for the YES Foundation, a non-profit group that helps inner-city students compete academically with their private school peers.

Shanan Wheeler

Franklin High School, Livonia, Michigan

Shanan Wheeler teaches Chemistry, IB Chemistry and Psychology to students at



Franklin High School in Livonia. Ms. Wheeler's undergraduate degree is in dietetics from Madonna University, and she completed the teacher education program at the University of Detroit Mercy in 2001. She has a Master's Degree from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in Science Education, and a specialist degree in Educational Leadership at Oakland University. During her tenure with Livonia Public Schools, Shanan has lead several Science Olympiad teams, participated in Project Learning Tree, and the Annual Friends of the Rouge Water Testing Project. Shanan is the current Science Department chairperson at Franklin High School, and is a member of the District Communication Team and Chemistry Steering Committee.

Lisa Wininger

Starr Elementary, Hastings, Michigan



Lisa Wininger, a graduate of the University of California, Davis, and California State University, was a practicing urban planner for a decade before becoming a teacher. Consequently, she has been teaching since 1998. She currently teaches multiple grades, ranging from 2nd to 6th, and serves as the advisor for Starr Elementary's Ecology Club. Her professional activities include "Intel Teach to the Future", The Maury Project, Research Experience for Teachers at Florida State University's Marine and Coastal Lab, and a team leader in the Michigan State University GK-12 Science Inquiry program. Lisa is also involved in the Earth Partnership for Schools Program through the University of Wisconsin, and COSEE Aquanauts.

Mike Irwin

Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies, Detroit, Michigan



Mike Irwin is a 7th grade Social Studies teacher at Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies in Detroit, MI. He has a B.A. from Michigan State University in Social Sciences with teaching minors in History and Psychology. Mike is also finishing up his M.A. from Grand Valley State University in Educational Leadership. Mike has been working and presenting on game-based learning and gamification along with his colleague Jon Cassie, Head of Senior School at Sewickley Academy for a year and a half.

Shirley Nuss

Cranbrook Brookside Lower School, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan



Shirley Nuss, 1982-1988, Grade three, 1988-Multi-Media. Bachelor of Education from Trinity University and Washburn University, Master of Arts from Michigan State University with a concentration in gifted and talented and Ph.D. from Michigan State University. Shirley has been a presenter to Wayne County teachers of gifted and talented on the subject of "Higher Order Thinking," and to teachers in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on "Technology in the Curriculum." She has been the recipient of Detroit Edison's "Energy and the Environment Mini Grant" and the Chrysler Fund/Michigan Council for the Humanities grant for projects and activities in the computer lab. Shirley has been an adjunct professor for Michigan State University in the technology certification program and their Master's degree program in Technology Education program during the summer. Shirley has presented papers at international conferences in Greece, Sicily, London, Spain and Turkey on the integration and use of technology in the classroom curriculum and was invited to be one of the keynote speakers at an International Early Childhood Conference in Istanbul, Turkey in May 2007. She was also invited to teach in the Summer Program at Irmak School in Istanbul. She has written several of the scripts for performance at Brookside in Chapels, December Programs, and May Festivals.

Todd Edmund

Columbian High School, Tiffin, Ohio



Todd Edmund is a high school history teacher from Tiffin City Schools in Tiffin, OH. He has a Bachelor's Degree in History from Heidelberg University and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Bowling Green State University. Todd is the mentor, advisor, and creator of "Edmund's Excavators," a group which excavates at Johnson's Island Civil War Military Prison with the Heidelberg University archaeology department. Todd has been named as a "Who's Who Among America's Teachers" seven times and was the 2003 Teacher of the Year. He is a 2-time educational textbook author, being used at three universities. He also does work at Heidelberg University, Lourdes University, and the International Academy of Science.

Jamie Nack

Fordson High School, Dearborn, Michigan



Jamie Nack has taught in Dearborn Public Schools since 2001. He has worked in schools at both the middle and high school level. Jamie is currently teaching American History at Fordson High School. His certifications are in Social Studies and Industrial Arts. Jamie's interests include project-based learning and integrating technology inside the classroom. He believes that students learn best when they can apply theoretical concepts to real world problems. Jamie received his BS in Education from Central Michigan University, and a MA in Instructional Technology from

Wayne State University.

Abigail Kuhn

Ann Arbor Learning Community, Ann Arbor, Michigan



Abigail Kuhn has taught middle school social studies at Ann Arbor Learning Community in Ann Arbor, MI for 7 years. Prior to this year, she also taught mathematics. She studied at Marietta College in Ohio where she graduated in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in Middle Childhood Education and a certificate in Leadership. Abigail also holds a certificate in Educational Technology from Michigan State University. She serves as the lead teacher for Ann Arbor Learning Community, and the advisor for the school's National History Day club. More than fifteen of her students have qualified for the state

competition. In addition, she has coached five national finalists and one national alternate. Recently, Abigail was chosen to be a part of the National History Day Summer Institute and will travel to China this summer.

Bridgit Spielman

Owosso Middle School, Owosso, Michigan



Bridgit Spielman is currently serving Owosso Public Schools as a 6th grade Technology and Social Studies Teacher at Owosso Middle School, an IB World School. She is the advisor for both the Creativity Club, which travels yearly to the Destination Imagination Competition, and the Environmental Club, which maintains the school's community garden. She is also OMS's Girls on Track coach, and facilitates after school tutoring. Her previous assignments have spanned kindergarten-8th grade, including Title I and Gifted and Talented instruction. Bridgit has a Master's Degree in Educational Technology

from Michigan State University, and is currently facilitating a one-to-one iPad curriculum in her technology and social studies classes. She serves as a teacher leader as the Humanities Department Chair, has participated in numerous curriculum writing initiatives, and has served on several school improvement teams.

Zeb Perrin

Owosso Middle School, Owosso, Michigan



Zeb Perrin completed his undergraduate work at Michigan State University from 2007-2011 and completed his teacher certification training through the College of Education, graduating in 2012. While completing this internship year, he worked at Owosso Middle School, teaching Sixth grade Social Studies and Technology and Seventh Grade Academic Enrichment. Zeb was selected to be a 2012 Corps Member for Teach for America. He is part of the charter corps in the Northeast Ohio Region, the first ever corps in the region. Currently, Zeb works for a charter school network known as the I CAN school system. He is a 9th/10th Grade Social Studies teacher at Northeast Ohio College Preparatory High School, a partner school of this network. In addition to being the Social Studies teacher Zeb also coaches both the high school and middle school basketball teams as well as advises the Student Government Association.

John Kenney

Detroit Country Day, Beverly Hills, Michigan



A 35-year veteran of the classroom, John Kenney left the Dallas Police Department in 1979 to begin teaching at The Stony Brooks School in Stony Brooks New York having received his BA in Education from the University of Virginia in 1976. He would later receive an MA from Wheaton College in 1984 and in 1999 he would leave Stony Brook for Detroit Country Day School in Beverly Hills, Michigan, where he still teaches today. John has spent his scholastic career exploring his passion for history and currently teaches 9th through 12th graders in Ancient World and American History with specialized classes such as the American Revolution, the Age of Lincoln, and Recent American Social History. John's abilities aren't limited to the classroom though, as he is also the Varsity Lacrosse Coach for Detroit Country Day and has received the Michigan Coach of the Year award numerous times (2001, 2003, 2005, 2009). John also has a number of scholastic achievements as he has received the 2013 Teacher of the Year Award from the University of Virginia, Curry School of Education. He was also inducted into the Bridgton Academy Hall of Fame in 2008 and was the recipient of the Nobel Educator of Distinction.

Kathryn Gross

Loyola High School, Detroit, Michigan



Kathryn Gross has been a teacher for 20 years and is currently teaching students at Loyola High School from 9th to 12th grade a variety of subjects including World History and Geography, Forensics, English, and Spanish. She is also certified to teach a number of other courses including psychology. As the Debate Coach for Loyola, Kathryn and has coached her team to the national competition three years in a row. Kathryn, an adjunct

professor at the University of Detroit Mercy, is affiliated with organizations such as the Jesuit Secondary Education Association, the National Geographic Society, the Michigan Historical Society, and the National Council for Teachers.

Kathryn has written and received over 30 grants and has been awarded The Teacher Who Changed My Life Award in 2013 as well as the Forensics Mentor Award in 2011.

LaTrelle Leonard Pierre

Bunche Academy, Detroit, Michigan



A Detroit native, LaTrelle Pierre teaches math to her 4th grade class at Bunche Academy and has been teaching for 16 years. She received a Masters in Arts in Teaching from University of Detroit Mercy in Teaching Mathematics and has taught in the Detroit Public School District for the past 14 years. During her college years, LaTrelle participated in a cooperative education program with the National Park Service which allowed her to travel and experience parks and historic sites all over the country like Brown V. Board National Historic Site, Shenandoah, and the William Howard Taft National Historic Site. LaTrelle has received numerous scholastic awards such as the Baldrige Lighthouse Award in 2003-2004, the Communities in Schools Teacher Awards in 2003-2004, 2006-2007, and 2007-2008.

Lisa Antrice Cole

Brenda Scott Academy - EAA, Detroit, Michigan



Lisa currently teaches and tutors science at the Brenda Scott Academy where she is also a member of T.E.A.M.S. as a Science Department teacher mentor and also a Science Department liaison. Lisa is currently working on a Master of Arts in Teaching from Wayne State University having already received a Bachelor of Science in 2000. Lisa has served as an Instructional Leader for Michigan State University where she was tasked with improving the quality of daily classroom instruction. When she came to Brenda Scott Academy, Lisa was instrumental in revitalizing the Science Department, and since then her own classroom has been visited by Governor Rick Snyder as an example of what student-centered learning looked like. Lisa also started a green team and was successful in getting Brenda Scott Academy recognized as a Green School. She has continued this work with the Greening of Detroit and has even started a school garden. Lisa has received numerous Scholastic achievements and has been an American Heart Fellow, Minority Access to Research Careers Tuition Fellow, Minority Biomedical Research Tuition Fellow, and received the Marvin L. Williams Academy Espirit de Corps 2010-2011 award.

Lisa Ortiz

Melvindale High School, Melvindale, Michigan



Lisa Ortiz is currently teaching Biology and Advanced Biology at Melvindale High School, and has been teaching for 20 years now. Her love of science is not limited to biology as she is certified to teach multiple science courses and is an amateur astronomer. Lisa believes in taking an innovative approach to teaching and has used non-conventional methods of getting her science lessons across to her students, including using creative writing assignments and having her students create comic strips. Lisa earned a Bachelor Degree in Science (Biology) and a Masters in Education and has worked with the International Center for Leadership in Education and has been instrumental in implementing Common Core practices in her school. She has served as a class sponsor, a department head, created her school's CSI program and she initiated and co-chaired a Student Ambassador program at her school.

Matthew Guyton

Mumford High School - EAA, Detroit, Michigan



Matthew Guyton has taught at numerous institutions and specializes in Math and Physics. He currently teaches at Mumford High School where he is also an Instructional Coach. Matthew attended Michigan Tech where he received a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Mathematics with a Minor in Physics and Enterprise. He would go on to receive a Master of Arts in Education-Curriculum and Instruction-Mathematics Education from the University of Phoenix in 2010. Aside from teaching, Matthew has served as the Department Chair for Math and Science and was a driving force behind one of Mumford's first Advanced Placement Programs.

Norman Hurns

Wylie E. Groves High School, Beverly Hills, Michigan



Norman Hurns has been teaching for 18 years, most recently Social Studies, and is currently a guidance counselor for Wylie E. Groves High School in Beverly Hills, Michigan. Norman received a BA in Liberal Arts from Xavier University in 1994 and his MA in secondary education from Walsh University (OH) in 1998. He would go on to receive a second MA in Counseling from the University of Detroit Mercy in 2012. Norman has dedicated much of his scholastic career to helping at-risk youth, both through his work as a teacher/counselor and as the Executive Director of "Brothers Making a Difference." He has instituted a number of programs which have been successful in raising grade point averages and dropping disciplinary referrals. His counseling efforts have helped many students deal with the all-too common problems of depression, bullying, poor academic performance, and sexual harassment. His efforts have made him the subject

of local media on more than one occasion and the recipient of the Black Male Leadership Award in 2013, the Detroit Vanguard Award in 2011, and the Spirit of Detroit award in 2010.

Chris Emmi

Birmingham Covington School, Birmingham, Michigan



Chris has taught 7th grade Science and 7th/8th grade Social Studies at Birmingham Covington School for ten years. He has also been a Science Olympiad coach for all ten of those years. He decided to pursue a career in teaching somewhere around his fourth year of college at Michigan State University, after TA-ing a class and working as a tutor for the basketball team, changing his major from Physiology Pre-med to Interdisciplinary Humanities. After earning his Bachelors degree in Humanities in 2003, Chris worked in restaurants for a couple years while fulfilling the

requirements to become certified in general science, history, and social studies before going to The University of Michigan and completing the MAC program, earning his Masters of Education, teaching certification, and completing his student teaching in a twelve month period of insanity. Chris now lives in Ann Arbor (and commutes to Birmingham) with his wife Yao and two sons, Alex and Theo. He loves sitting in a coffee shop reading and rowing on the Huron River with his crew team.

Kimberly Finley

Bates Academy, Detroit, Michigan



Kimberly teaches 6-8th grade Science, Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program (DAPCEP), and Robotics at Bates Academy in Detroit Public Schools. She has taught Science for 20+ years in various schools throughout the Detroit area. She earned her teaching certification from University of Detroit Mercy in Elementary Education with a major in Biology. She is a hands-on, minds-on educational facilitator, guiding students to understand scientific concepts. She is a life-long learner always looking for new and innovative ways to engage students to take a deeper look and not just skim the surface. She is the mother of three adult sons, and proud grandparent of two. She enjoys taking long walks with her dog Myles, reading and exploring new place as well as observing the natural beauty of her Detroit

community.

Amanda Husband

Birmingham Covington School, Birmingham, Michigan



Amanda Husband is currently the art teacher at Birmingham Covington School in Birmingham, Michigan. The majority of her life was spent in Naperville, Illinois where she also spent five years teaching after graduating from the University of Illinois. After those first five years of teaching, she decided to move to Phoenix, Arizona and opened up her own company. She was able to experience many different jobs and roles in many different professions but none of them spoke to her like teaching did. She went back to teaching art, met her husband who is originally from Michigan, and they moved back to the Midwest to be closer to family. She loves her role at BCS! The amount of creativity that can be used as an art teacher is endless. She is excited to go to work and feels lucky to love what she does.

Chelsea Labbe

Detroit Community Schools, Detroit, Michigan



Chelsea is an Art Educator at Detroit Community Schools who received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the College for Creative Studies. Chelsea's excitement for glass began over a decade ago after exploring all other mediums. She fell in love instantly and it became her passion, leading her to further her education at both Pilchuck in Seattle and the Abbate Zanetti in Italy. Beyond glass, engaging with students and challenging creative thinking in the classroom sparked another calling. Now at Detroit Community, Chelsea has the freedom of creating the school's art curriculum; culminating her experience and passion of both avenues. It's not all crayons and scissors though! Chelsea is busy planning the wedding of her dreams, beasting out in the gym, and finding ways to live in color.