

Brie Barber

Walter Douglas Elementary School

2016 Rodel Exemplary Teacher Finalist

Collaborating for student success

“ Collaboration with colleagues is a must within the teaching profession! The expectations we have set for ourselves, coinciding with the benefits of implementing technology within the classroom, create an enormous workload for the independent teacher; however, working amongst colleagues to share PowerPoint lessons, Smart Notebook lessons, websites, videos, and more allows for a wealth of knowledge to be shared. It truly takes a team to create, find, and implement these interactive resources. Our third-grade teacher team collaborates to provide all of our students with the most engaging and effective lessons possible. Teamwork benefits everyone involved.

Learning from a mentor

“ The expectations you set for your students makes the difference. What you expect from your students will come to fruition, so hold those expectations to the highest standards possible.

A tip for new teachers

“ Buy comfortable shoes, and don't be afraid to ask for help when needed.



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Walter Douglas Elementary School

Flowing Wells Unified District

Third grade

Experience: Six and a half years in education, all in the Flowing Wells School District, including five years as a third-grade teacher, a semester as a second-grade ELD teacher, one year as a third-grade ELD teacher; currently serving as grade level chair and member of the leadership team, an instructional coordinator and coach on campus

Degrees: B.A. in Education from University of Arizona; M.A. in Language, Reading, and Culture from University of Arizona; Reading Endorsement, K-8; SEI Certification, K-12; Elementary Education Certification, 1-8

The Rodel Exemplary Teacher Initiative honors extraordinary teachers and asks that they each mentor high-potential student teachers.

What sets the program apart from typical student teaching programs is that mentor teachers are selected based on their outstanding student achievement in high-need schools, their ability to mentor new teachers, and the recommendation of their principals and Rodel's observation team. This ensures that student teachers are learning from the best. In addition, Rodel provides further training and support to both mentors and student teachers to assure Promising Student Teacher Graduates start their careers as outstanding educators.

Since 2004, 167 Rodel Exemplary Teachers have been named and more than 650 Rodel Promising Student Teachers have been mentored.

The 2016 Rodel Exemplary Teachers will be announced on November 29 at www.rodelaz.org.