Jillian Hernandez
W.F. Killip Elementary School

2016 Rodel Exemplary Teacher Finalist

Collaborating for student success

" The fifth-grade team and our instructional coach work together to build all of the curriculum we teach. We analyze student progress together, celebrate successes, and brainstorm when we need to make changes. This provides the best kind of learning environment for our students. We view all of the students as *our* students. We are constantly seeking ways to support all of our students at home, in the community, and at school. We draw on each other's strengths and make sure we are giving our best daily. This kind of support is invaluable for us as teachers, but also for the students. They don't have just one teacher, they have four!

Learning from a mentor

" From my mentor, I learned how to listen patiently and respectfully for what parents and families are telling me and what they are not telling me. I learned to read beyond frustration to the root of concern and to reach out to them in a way that makes sense. I learned to make the family a part of the educational team.

Engaging students

" I try to stay up-to-date on new educational technologies. The students each have Google Classroom accounts in which they can view their work, post comments, pictures, or text. The students enjoy seeing what new information has been posted each day. It keeps them engaged in relevant topics and helps their learning process.

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

Jillian Hernandez
W.F. Killip Elementary School

Flagstaff Unified District

Fifth grade

Experience: Ten years in education, all at Killip Elementary, including two years as a fifth-grade teacher, one year as a fourth-grade bilingual teacher, two years as a fourth-grade general education teacher, and five years as an instructional coach; served on district math committees, the school leadership team, STEM committee, assessment committee, and the PTO

Degrees: B.A. in Elementary Education from Northern Arizona University; M.A. in the Teaching of Mathematics from Western Governor's University

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.

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