Meredith Hey
Irving Elementary School

2016 Rodel Exemplary Teacher

A tip for new teachers

❝ Allow students the time to work together. Give them the opportunity to learn from one another, to struggle and process through the learning together with guidance from the teacher without just giving them the answers. This will help them to become confident in their learning and in their abilities.

Making data-driven decisions

❝ Student achievement data is what drives my instruction. This data helps me to know when to challenge my students or when to reinforce a concept. Data helps me to differentiate my lessons based on each individual student's needs.

Bragging rights

❝ My greatest source of pride comes from the students in my classroom each day. They come to school with a desire to learn and a willingness to work together with each other and with me to reach their learning goals.

Engaging students

❝ Getting to know your students' likes and dislikes makes keeping them engaged in learning easy. Designing lessons around their interest levels helps to draw them into the lesson and gives meaning to what they are learning. Encouraging the students to work together and to engage in conversation allows them to learn new insights from each other and holds them accountable to their fellow classmates to bring something to the learning community.

Meredith Hey
Irving Elementary School

Mesa Public Schools

Fourth/Fifth grade

Experience: Thirteen years in education including two years as a fourth/fifth-grade combo teacher, one year as a first/second-grade combo teacher, two years as a third-grade teacher, two years as a fourth-grade teacher, one year as a third/fourth-grade combo teacher, and five years as a fifth-grade teacher; currently the co-chair of the school CAST team, co-trainer for the district math curriculum, and co-adviser for Student Council

Degrees: B.S. in Elementary Education from Northern Arizona University; M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction from Northern Arizona University; ESL Full Endorsement

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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