Amy Tixier
Inca Elementary School

2016 Rodel Exemplary Teacher

Engaging students

" In order to keep students engaged, I develop lessons that are meaningful, hands-on, collaborative, and applicable to real-life situations. I also make sure to properly scaffold instruction so that my students can build self-efficacy and confidence in order to be successful learners. I always try to connect with my students and get to know them individually in order to build a relationship of trust, care, and concern that enhances the classroom environment and the level of student contribution.

Making data-driven decisions

" Student achievement data helps me to make informed decisions regarding the academic placement of my students and the strategies and interventions I can implement to ensure that all of my students are successful. I use both formal and informal assessment practices to guide my instruction and to create differentiated lessons that will meet the needs of my diverse group of students. I also use student achievement data to inform my small group instruction and help in the creation of long- and short-term academic goals for all my students.

Learning from a mentor

" One lesson I have learned from a mentor is that lessons should be fun, engaging, and collaborative. Some students learn best when they are planning, collaborating, creating, and sharing their knowledge with others. The creation of a student-centered classroom that takes into account the needs of students and the strategies that will best engage them in learning will assist them in developing the mindset that learning is fun. Students that enjoy learning are more successful!

Amy Tixier

Inca Elementary School

Buckeye Elementary District

Third grade

Experience: Five years in education including one year as a third-grade teacher, one year as a kindergarten ELD teacher, and three years as a second-grade teacher; currently serving on the Arizona K-12 Standards Subcommittee, grade level team lead, PBIS Tier 1 lead, member of ELA curriculum mapping team and District Advisory Committee; previously served as a trainer for Thinking Maps and Write From the Beginning

Degrees: B.A. in Elementary Education and M.Ed. in Elementary Education from Northern Arizona University; Reading Specialist Endorsement; SEI Endorsement; currently pursuing a Doctoral degree in Organizational Development in K-12 Settings from Grand Canyon 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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