

Shannon Bonnette

Richard E. Miller School

2016 Rodel Exemplary Principal Finalist

A tip for new principals

“ I have a few tips for a new principal. First, find balance. You need to take care of yourself before you can take care of your students, staff and community. Second, LAUGH! You need to laugh and have fun with your staff and students. Finally, take the time to build relationships with your stakeholders. Relationships are everything.

Learning from a mentor

“ I learned two important lessons from my mentor. First, build a culture of trust and respect. Take the time to build relationships with everyone that impacts students. The time you invest in relationship building will come back to you tenfold in unexpected ways! The second lesson is you won't have the answer to everything. It's okay to make a mistake. Take ownership of your mistake, learn from it, and do it differently next time.

Being inspired to lead

“ Realizing that I could have a larger impact on student achievement outside the classroom inspired me to become a principal. Watching students and teachers collaborate, make connections and become lifelong learners is such a rewarding job. Being able to empower these communities is truly my passion.

A tip for parents

“ The one tip I would give parents to help their children be successful in school is to be plugged in! Communicate with the teacher, be open to the new way your child is learning, and get your children to school each day and on time. Every minute counts!

Bragging rights

“ My greatest source of pride about Richard E. Miller Elementary is the dedication of my staff to continually better their instructional practices to meet the needs of our diverse population. The positive culture at our school is apparent when you see people working together, supporting and challenging each other to be the BEST they can be. Our vision statement is lived out each day: "Reaching Every Mind to be the BEST, expect the BEST, get the BEST!"



Shannon Bonnette

Richard E. Miller School
Washington Elementary District

600 students in grades PreK-5

Experience: 24 years in education including 14 years as a classroom teacher, four years as an instructional coach, one year as an assistant principal and five years as a principal; currently in year two of the University of Virginia Turnaround Program; recently served as an Interest Based Negotiation (IBN) representative for certified employees and on the District Curriculum Committees (Math and Report Card); currently a member of the Washington Principal's Association, serving as the Treasurer

Degrees: B.A. in Education from Arizona State University; M.A. in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University

Rodel, in partnership with Social Venture Partners Arizona, developed the Rodel Exemplary Principal Initiative to recognize outstanding school principals and populate a pipeline of highly skilled school leaders for Arizona's most challenging schools.

The Rodel Exemplary Principals are selected for their demonstrated ability to lead high-need schools to success by inspiring their staffs to develop a campus that is high achieving, safe, orderly and welcoming.

Each cohort of Exemplary Principals provides professional development, field experience and mentorship to a class of Rodel Aspiring Principals. After learning from the best, Rodel Aspiring Principals are better prepared to lead their own high-need schools.

The 2016 Rodel Exemplary Principals will be announced on January 10 at www.rodelaz.org.