

Kathryn Mullery

Connolly Middle School

2016 Rodel Exemplary Principal Finalist

A tip for new principals

“ View "all sides of the story" in order to create winning situations for all members of your learning community. This is achieved by being a great and careful listener to veteran and new staff. Building relationships with students, parents and staff is a valuable resource for the success of any school.

Learning from a mentor

“ One very important lesson that I learned was to create the "win-win" situation when working on challenging problems. Remember to always consider these three questions when faced with important decisions: What is best for the student? What is best for the teacher? What is best for the parent?

Making data-driven decisions

“ The entire learning community is focused on student achievement and continued improvement of instruction. We provide training, time and tools for our staff to collaborate and analyze multiple types of data for instructional purposes such as standardized assessments, formal/informal assessments, grades, and to find skill/academic gaps for every single student on this campus. We use this information to plan lessons, make curricular decisions, and change instruction based on the individual students' needs.



Kathryn Mullery

Connolly Middle School
Tempe Elementary District

1,083 students in grades 6-8

Experience: 26 years in education including seven years as a part-time teacher/coach, six years as a teacher, one year as teacher on special assignment, one year as an assistant principal, and 11 years as a principal; currently serving as AVID District Director and on Arizona AVID Principal Collaborative, Arizona School Administrators Middle Level Division Committee Member, and a member of the district's Interest Based Negotiating Team

Degrees: B.A. in Education from Arizona State University; M.A. in Educational Leadership and Principal Certificate 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.