

Denise Hall

Riverview School

2016 Rodel Exemplary Teacher

Engaging students

“ Students need to be active participants in their learning. They should also be given choices to increase engagement in the learning process. I use songs to teach geography, Kagan structures to master grammar, 'power whooshes' to celebrate learning (something I learned from a past Quantum Learning training), brain breaks to wake up our minds, technology to tie into the world around us, hands-on activities to make learning real, and choice menus to make learning individualized.

Learning from a mentor

“ My greatest mentor was my mother. When I was young, she taught in a very poor area of West Virginia. I really can't remember what grades or subjects she taught, but I remember her buying extra coats to hand out in winter and attending her students' music recitals and sporting events. She always seemed to know exactly what each child needed. I wanted to be just like her. I wanted to make a difference in people's lives.

Bragging rights

“ When Rodel's observation team came to visit my classroom, they pointed out two situations where my students took it upon themselves to be sure everyone was included in the learning activity. That is what makes my heart fill with pride. Those are the stories I shared with my colleagues when they asked how my observation went that day. It was no longer about me or my lesson. It was about the sense of community we have created in our classroom.



Denise Hall
Riverview School

Dysart Unified District

Second grade

Experience: Twenty-one years in education including one and a half years as a second-grade teacher, eight and a half years as a kindergarten teacher, ten years as a first-grade teacher, and one year as a self-contained SEI first-grade teacher; currently serving as a member of the school Math Leadership Team and Character Counts Committee, and as a peer mentor for new teachers; previously served as the Site Coordinator for the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant

Degrees: B.A. in Elementary Education from Arizona State University; M.A. in Elementary Education from Northern Arizona University; SEI, K-12; Early Childhood 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.