

2014 NEBRASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR: KRISTI BUNDY



Kristi Bundy, an Ashland-Greenwood Middle School teacher, was recently named the 2014 Nebraska Teacher of the Year. Bundy teaches language arts and science to sixth grade students.

Zach Kassebaum, Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools superintendent, wrote in his letter of recommendation: "Kristi has assumed various leadership roles in the district and carries forward with an 'I can' attitude that is contagious." Bundy "is passionate about seeing ALL kids succeed," he said, and she continuously monitors and adjusts her instruction to best meet the needs of all students.

Bundy has been teaching language arts, science and mathematics at Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools since 2003. She received a Master's Degree in Teacher Learning and Teacher Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Bundy is a member of numerous professional associations including the National Education Association, Nebraska Science Teachers Association, Ashland-Greenwood Education Association, Nebraska Coaches Association and the Nebraska State Education Association. She is currently a member of the Marzano Academy and co-chair of the Science Curriculum Team. Bundy received the Alice Raikes Distinguished Teacher Award in 2013.

QUOTES FROM KRISTI:

"Every day in every way, we keep getting better and better. I love to learn. I want to improve and I am not unique. I believe the mass majority of teachers, just like students, want to keep improving."

"I believe we can do this, and I know that I will continue to believe in myself, my students, my colleagues, my community, my state, and the collective power we have to truly make a difference!"

"I have a true love for learning that also influenced my teaching career. I make it a point to learn something new every day."

"My greatest contribution to education is my belief that education helps people be successful. I am willing to make any change, promote change, implement any change that needs to be made to help make a positive difference in students and I will give 110 percent effort."

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SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

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2014 NEBRASKA Teacher of the Year

KRISTI BUNDY
Language Arts & Science Teacher
Ashland-Greenwood Middle School
Ashland, Nebraska

WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

Pieces to the Puzzle

Help students recognize that life is like a puzzle. They design the picture of their future. You are there to help fill in the pieces and to help them identify how to determine the appropriate resources needed to complete the picture of their future. Start by identifying students' strengths and weaknesses and then help them learn the importance of goal setting and the importance of celebrating when they meet their goals. Giving students monthly I Can, You Can, We Can success principles that are practiced using a TEAM mentality will help them prepare for their future. The We Can principles show students that they can make a difference for themselves and for others. By taking control of their own academic success students will be self-motivated to continue to climb to their potential.

Teacher Evaluation Pilot Implementation

How is it going? Lots of change and lots of hard work with some stress and a little frustration equals the implementation of a pilot that is going well. Finding key people to form a Teacher Leader Committee from each building and from a variety of core and non-core areas has helped teachers give feedback on what is going well and where assistance is needed. Providing a variety of times, days and types of PLCs has helped teachers find the time to learn the new instructional framework, to write the student learning objectives, to set targets that match the state standards benchmarks, to monitor student progress and differentiate learning and to use student perception data to improve instruction. Teachers need to understand that the purpose of the new evaluation system is the improvement of instruction and leadership, evaluations based on multiple measures of performance multiple times and academic improvement for all students.

Using Quality Science Fair Projects to Teach Science Inquiry

Students learn the steps of the scientific method using different modes of learning. Note taking, modeling experimental design, short video clips, mini-labs, graphic organizers, games and a summative project that has students identifying their own questions, forming a hypothesis, designing an experiment, using appropriate tools, collecting data, analyzing data, forming a conclusion and sharing their results. Their science fair projects are five-month projects but with the bulk of the learning happening in the first month. Students who have graduated years ago still come back and talk about their science fair projects. It's a lot of work but LOTS of fun. (Nebraska State Science Standards: SC8.1.1-8.1.3: UNIFYING CONCEPTS AND PROCESSES. Nebraska State Science Standard: SC8.2.1: SCIENCE AS INQUIRY)



Photos courtesy of Al Koontz