



TIM ROYERS

2016 NEBRASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Tim Royers, a social studies teacher at Millard West High School, was recently named the 2016 Nebraska Teacher of the Year. The Teacher of the Year program recognizes the contributions of classroom teachers who are exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable, and skilled. Teachers selected have the ability to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn.

Royers is a nine-year veteran teacher who earned a Bachelor's Degree at Northwest Missouri State University in Social Science Education and a Master's Degree in History at the University of Nebraska at Omaha with a James Madison Memorial Fellowship. Royers was a debate coach at Millard West for eight years, helping the team win the state championship for five consecutive years. He is an active member of the Millard Education Association, serving on the Board of Directors and as the Chief Negotiator for collective bargaining.

Royers and the Awards of Excellence winners were honored by the State Board of Education at a luncheon in November 2015. Royers participated in the National Teacher of the Year competition in December.

TIM ROYERS

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QUOTES FROM TIM

“ Teaching is not just about delivering content. Teaching should also be about encouraging and motivating students. Many students see themselves as they are in the present. It is up to educators to show them what they can be in the future — to show them they have someone who believes in them. ”

“ The objectives that I set for myself at the start of each school year are entirely centered around the students. I cannot quantify passion, or a hunger to learn, or a commitment to push oneself farther than they had previously thought possible. What I want them to take away is the ability to think critically, to consider multiple perspectives, to be able to assess causation over an extended period of time. These are skills that can transfer to any social studies course and countless aspects of their lives beyond the academic classroom. ”

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

- Nebraska State Board of Education
- Nebraska Department of Education
- BlueCross BlueShield of Nebraska
- Data Recognition Corporation (DRC)
- Nebraska Association of School Boards
- Nebraska Council of School Administrators
- Nebraska Parent Teacher Association
- Nebraska State Education Association
- SMART Technologies
- Dillard's Department Store, Lincoln, Nebraska



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Social Studies Teacher
Millard West High School
Omaha, Nebraska

WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS



THE ORIGINAL FLIPPED CLASSROOM: READING AT HOME

The idea of flipping the classroom — having the initial delivery of content take place at home and then dedicating your class time to activities that foster greater understanding — is nothing new. When done well, nightly readings can serve in place of online videos and help develop critical reading and note-taking skills for students. This session will go over how to make daily reading assignments the starting point for student learning, and how the class period can be structured to maximize student learning and understanding.



BEING COMFORTABLE WITH BEING UNCOMFORTABLE

For many students, admitting they have a question about a particular concept is a fate worse than death. This attitude can make any comprehension gap even worse, however, because students fail to raise their issues and get the help they need. Building a Socratic climate where questioning is not only accepted but encouraged is an excellent way to promote student growth. This session will focus on breaking down the classroom culture that encourages students to remain silent when they are unsure of their understanding and demonstrate how to build a climate of constructive questioning as well as support systems that help students become comfortable with being uncomfortable as they push themselves academically.

THE ASSOCIATION AND THE DISTRICT: FOSTERING A PRAGMATIC RELATIONSHIP

“Union” is sometimes a dirty word in education, but, in reality, professional associations are critical components to effective school systems. When done right, the relationship between the association and the district can provide teachers an effective voice to advocate for their classrooms in a way that is both productive and pragmatic. This session will identify ways that associations and districts can develop and promote strong, professional interactions that ensure that teachers have a chance to do their job as best they can in the classroom.



INCORPORATING WRITING IN THE CONTENT AREA CLASSROOM

“Why are we writing? This isn't an English class!” Be prepared to refute the rallying cry of disgruntled high school students everywhere as we look at various ways that you can incorporate writing in the non-Language Arts classroom. From small daily writing activities to full essays and research papers, this session will explore a litany of methods that you can use to help develop students' writing abilities in ways that compliment your learning objectives rather than take time away from your content instruction.