

Teacher Fellow Alumni Biographies

Susan L. Adkins

Detroit Public Schools, Detroit, Michigan



Susan Adkins has been teaching upper elementary school students since 1996 and is a National Board Certified Teacher with Detroit Public Schools. She earned her Master of Arts in Education from the University of Michigan with a specialization in Reading. Her Bachelor of Science in Education Degree is from Wayne State University. Susan has been published in the Michigan Reading Journal. She spends her spare time working with candidates for National Board Certification, and is a member of several different professional organizations. In addition, Susan has personally wrote and earned competitive grants. She frequents The Henry Ford with her classes, and especially enjoys visiting Greenfield Village. Susan was a 2010 Teacher Fellow and she served as a Teacher Fellow Mentor during the 2011-2012 session.

Annette Alexander-Frank

Unis Middle School, Dearborn, Michigan



Annette has been an arts educator since 1985 in both public school settings, in workshops, and artist residencies. She is a graduate of Wayne State University with a master's degree in Art Education. She was selected as the Michigan Film/Video Teacher of the Year in 1999, and in 2003 was awarded the Arts Achievement award given to outstanding alumni of Wayne State Fine and Performing Arts programs. Annette currently teaches middle school in Dearborn Public Schools at Unis Middle School, where she is coordinator of Student Programs for Digital Arts Film & Television (DAFT), which allows her to oversee several workshops, including Art in Motion and the weekend residential Student Animation Workshop for advanced high school students. She has used the resources of The Henry Ford many times to augment her teaching.

Cynthia Andrews

Ann Arbor Learning Community, Ann Arbor, Michigan



Cynthia Andrews received her B.S. from Eastern Michigan University in elementary education (science and social studies). Mrs. Andrews has varied teaching experiences, ranging from home-schooling to teaching in both urban and rural school settings. She has been teaching at the Ann Arbor Learning Community in Ann Arbor, Michigan since 2005. Presently, Mrs. Andrews teaches sixth through eighth grade science. She has also taught a multi-age 4/5 grade classroom for seven years. In the past, she sponsored students for *Michigan History Day*; subsequently, 26 of her students have won at the state youth division level since 2006. Additionally, Mrs. Andrews attended the NEH Teacher Workshop, *America's Industrial Revolution at The Henry Ford*, as a teacher participant and a Master Teacher. She is currently a 2012 Eastern Michigan Writing Project participant at Eastern Michigan University. She returned to The Henry Ford to serve as a Teacher Fellow Mentor for the 2011-2012 session.

Connie Atkisson

O.W. Holmes Elementary, Detroit, Michigan



Connie Atkisson teaches science to grades 3-8 at O. W. Holmes School in Southwest Detroit. Ms. Atkisson holds a Masters in Education, Montessori certification, and has earned more than 30 graduate hours toward a PhD in science education. She has developed two successful private schools in Ohio and Michigan, served on several MEAP committees, runs a variety of after school science programs and developed curriculum for Detroit Public Schools and several non-formal educational programs. She is a trained DAPCEP engineering teacher. Ms. Atkisson has received several teaching awards including the Walter P Chrysler Excellence in Education, the Greening of Detroit Teacher of the Year and was invited to the White House by the President in recognition of her work in science. Ms. Atkisson and one of her students were guests at the White House and toured many of the famous sites as guests of the Department of Defense. Her student spent time with the President and sat with him on the platform during the Science Fair.

Deborah Bejune



Deborah Bejune taught Kindergarten at the New Morning School in Plymouth, MI. Her certifications are in elementary education, math, and computers in education. She has also earned her Masters in the Art of Teaching in Reading and Language Arts. Deborah received a 2011 grant from Petsmart to purchase fish and a fish habitat, and a 2010 grant to study lifecycles from MDSTA. She is a member of NAEYC, and has given presentations at staff and district workshops.

Andy Christopherson

Redford Union High School, Redford Township, Michigan



Andy Christopherson has taught social studies at Redford Union High School since 1996. Andy is interested in project based learning and the potential it has to make learning more relevant for students. Andy received his BA in History from U of M Dearborn, a MA in Instructional Technology from Wayne State University, and EdS. K-12 Administration from Michigan State University. In addition, he has been recognized by the State Superintendent and Michigan DOE for work on aligning technology resources to State curriculum benchmarks as well as won several technology grants. The Henry Ford has been important to Andy since he came here and was inspired while he was a student.

Vickie Dee Weiss

City School, Grand Blanc, Michigan



Vickie Weiss is a multi-age elementary teacher at City School in Grand Blanc, Michigan. She has taught for 48+ years. Despite the distance, Vickie and her students visited the Henry Ford this year. In addition, Vickie has traveled to Japan, Ukraine, Russia, and Lithuania as part of teacher groups. She has studied with teachers at the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C.; NASA Glenn Research Center; the Bronx Zoo; the JASON Project in various locations, and the

Mickelson Math Science Academy. Vickie has received many awards and recognitions, including the *President's Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Primary Education*. Vickie has served on the Board of Directors for the National Council for Social Studies; been a committee member for the NCSS-CBC Social Studies Notable Trade Books Review Committee, and currently serves on the Carter G. Woodson Book Award Committee.

Maryann Dreske

Novi High School, Novi, Michigan



Maryann Dreske earned her BA in Accounting from Michigan State University's Honors College and a MBA degree from The University of Detroit-Mercy. After more than 20 years in accounting and finance, she received her teaching certificate through Wayne State University, and a Masters in the Art of Teaching from Marygrove College. She has taught at Novi High School since 2003. This past year, Maryann began a US History sheltered classroom for English Language Learners and has a strong interest in student literacy. In addition, she has received many awards and grants, including a Best Buy Award, DTE Award, NEF Grant, and Ashland College NEH grant. Maryann, a member of the Henry Ford, has repeatedly employed the resources of The Henry Ford to teach her students through many fieldtrips.

Kelly Eddy

Winston Churchill High School, Livonia, Michigan



Kelly Eddy received her B.A. from Western Michigan University. Ms Eddy began teaching in the Livonia Public Schools in 1997, and has taught Global Studies, World History, AP US History, and US History and Humanities. She has attended several summer seminars offered by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Gilder Lehrman Institute, and Ashland University. In 2009, she was awarded a James Madison Fellowship, which will cover the expenses of her secondary advanced degree. She will be attending Ashland University in Ohio for a Masters degree in American History and Government. Furthermore, she served as a Teacher Fellow mentor during the 2011-2012 session. Most recently, Ms. Eddy was awarded the 2012 "State History Teacher of the Year" by the Gilder Lehrman Institute.

Mary Elizabeth Foulke

C.L. Bailey Elementary School, Hillsdale, Michigan



Mary Foulke received her BA in Social Science and Elementary Education from Spring Arbor College, and a MA in Curriculum and Instruction from Michigan State. She has been a teacher in Hillsdale since 1986, and currently is teaching 3rd grade. Mary has developed units to teach "Michigan Studies" for Hillsdale Schools, as well as initiating and leading the Hillsdale History Club, and American Girl Club. In October 2005 she was the McConnell Award Winner for Elementary History Teacher of the Year. Her professional affiliations include being the President of MCHE, a board member of the Hillsdale County Historical Society, and Social Studies Chair for Hillsdale Community Schools. Mary has participated in several workshops, including four summers worth of NEH Workshops, including: "America's Industrial Revolution at The Henry Ford." Furthermore, she served as a Teacher Fellow Mentor during the 2011-2012 session. Mrs. Foulke brings her 3rd graders to Greenfield Village yearly.

Amber Franzdorf

Defiance Middle School, Defiance, Ohio



Amber Franzdorf teaches 8th grade science at Defiance Middle School in Defiance, Ohio. She has been teaching since 2000, and has her certification in 7-12 Science and Computers. She also has a Master's degree in classroom technology. Amber is the middle school science department chairperson, and also a member of her school's "Building Leadership Team." She has enjoyed the ability to collaborate with teachers from other schools, which is an opportunity that the leadership team has provided for her.

Marjorie Gibson

Jo Brighton Skills Center, Wyandotte, Michigan



Marjorie Gibson teaches in a vocational program for youth with cognitive and various other impairments. Her classroom is a commercial bakery where she helps her students learn life skills in a work environment, as well as teaching actual baking skills. She is the director of the Special Olympics program for her school, and is a member of the District Public Relations Committee. Marjorie was also a former member of the Wayne RESA Public Relations Committee. Additionally, she won the *Duane F. Brannick Award* for the volunteer work her classroom provided to the city of Trenton.

Margaret Gonzalez-Sheeran

Novi Middle School, Novi, Michigan



Margaret Gonzalez-Sheeran is a 7th grade science teacher at Novi Middle School. Margaret has an undergraduate teaching major in social studies with a minor in science from the University of Michigan. She has also earned her Master's degree in teaching students with learning disabilities, and the coinciding K-12 endorsement from Wayne State University. Mrs. Sheeran is a union representative for the Novi Education Association, and a board member of the Novi athletic Boosters. In 2010, Margaret was named as the *Science and Engineering Fair of Metro Detroit's Teacher of the Year*.

Elias Gorman

Bay High School, Bay City Village, Ohio

Elias Gorman earned both a B.A. and M.A. in history, and has been teaching since 1994. Formerly, he served as a Teacher Consultant to the Ohio Geographic Alliance for teachers of World Geography. For the past 13 years, Mr. Gorman has taught AP US history at Bay High School in Bay Village, Ohio. His student pass rate is over 90% for the AP US History exam. He has run in the Boston and New York City Marathons, and currently works with the high school cross county team.

Robin Hartnett



Robin Hartnett, a lifelong resident of the Metropolitan Detroit area, is a graduate of Michigan State University with a BS degree in Merchandising Management, as well as a Masters Degree in Education also from MSU. She has taught second, third, fifth and sixth grades in both urban and suburban Detroit schools. When Robin is not teaching in the classroom, she is teaching students of all ages, ranging from six months to 86 years old, to swim at one of the local pools. According to Robin, “making an impact on someone’s life by teaching them how to do or figure something out that they couldn’t before is the greatest joy!” In addition, as an “extra-curricular activity,” Robin founded a business that instructs and certifies lifesaving practices to groups and individuals. As a member and patron of The Henry Ford, she considers it to be an important part of her life. Her students routinely ask to go there; they especially enjoy the cars, carousel, and trains.

Shirley Hazlett

Willow Elementary School, Lansing, Michigan



Shirley Hazlett is a K-8 Art Specialist with the Lansing School District and has also taught all subjects at the 4-6 level. She holds a B.A. in Studio Art from Michigan State University, and completed her certification and Master’s degree in Education at Spring Arbor University. Ms. Hazlett has a passion for finding the connections between the arts, cultural studies, history and other subjects, and delights in exploring these with fellow teachers. She strongly believes that project-based and site-based learning experiences deepen comprehensive learning and has worked extensively with The Michigan Historical Museum, The Michigan Women’s Historical Museum, the MSU Museum and local nature centers, to create authentic, student-centered curriculum. Ms. Hazlett has participated in on-site seminars with the NAEA, NHIA, Teach America History, the Gilder-Lehrman Institute and a Fulbright-Hays GPA to Bulgaria. As a Teacher-Fellow with The Henry Ford, she contributed a site-based unit, “Innovation in 20th Century Design,” which has recently been published to their site. She is the recipient of the 2009 Elsie Maile Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award and a 2010 Regional Finalist for Michigan Teacher of the Year. As an artist, Shirley specializes in portraits, figures, live event sketches, and mural work. Follow her on Pinterest, Twitter @FindingPatterns, or at shirleyhazlett.net.

Christopher Hemler



Christopher Hemler was a classroom teacher for 6 years. He most recently taught 7th and 8th grade Social Studies at Chatterton Middle School in the Fitzgerald District in Warren. Chris is now the Curator of Education for youth, adult and digital programs at The Henry Ford. He has also been a Simmons Intern, an NEH Master Teacher, and a project coordinator at The Henry Ford. He has a BA from University of Detroit Mercy and is certified to teach middle and high school Social Studies and History. Chris is currently finishing his thesis for his Master of Arts in History from Oakland University. Chris also served as the student council advisor, and the head coach of the Social Studies Olympiad team while at Chatterton.

Rosemary Johnson

Redford Union High School, Redford Township, Michigan



Rosemary earned her Master of Arts in Social Science in 2002 from Eastern Michigan University. She has been a Social Studies Teacher at Redford Union High School, in Redford Township, Michigan since 1998. There she has chaperoned student trips throughout Michigan, and to Washington D.C., and Europe. From 1997-2000, Rosemary worked at The Henry Ford as a Historical Presenter. Last year, Rosemary was awarded the Michigan History Foundation's 2009 Odyssey Award. In addition, Rosemary is a member of the Michigan Council of Social Studies and the Michigan Education Association.

Additionally, in 2011, Rosemary participated in the NEH "America's Industrial Revolution at The Henry Ford" workshop.

Lisa M. Koski

Trillium Academy, Taylor, Michigan



Lisa Koski has been teaching since 2001. During her career, Lisa has taught children in grades 1-3 in public, private, and charter school settings. One of her favorite places to visit with her class is the Henry Ford. In addition to teaching her second and third grade students at Trillium Academy, Lisa is a mentor to other teachers, School Improvement Plan Coordinator, and curriculum writer. She is also a teacher consultant for the Michigan Geographical Alliance, based at Central Michigan University, and a Facilitator for Project Learning Tree. In October of 2005, Lisa was honored as the Michigan Charter School

Teacher of the Year. Lisa has participated in three NEH Workshops and served on MDE's Professional Standards Commission for Teachers from 2007-2008. Lisa graduated with her M.A.T. Elementary Education from Eastern Michigan University, and holds a B.A. in Elementary Education from Saginaw Valley State University.

Cary Mannaberg

East Kentwood High School, East Kentwood, Michigan



Cary Mannaberg attended the University of Illinois in Urbana. Mr. Mannaberg initially majored in Metallurgical Engineering, but graduated with a B.S. in Ecology. He worked in labs for 4 years where he aided with research in materials science, agronomy and plant physiology. He then attended Parkland Community College in Champaign, IL where he received an Associates degree in Micro Precision Technology, and a certificate in Clock Repair. After his graduation, he worked at Schaevitz Engineering in Pennsauken, NJ where he worked on developing new accelerometers and inclinometers. Later, he worked at Neptune Research where he worked on developing small electromechanical valves. His first teaching job was in

1986 when he launched the Micro Mechanical Program at the State Technical Institute in Plainwell, NJ, which he continued to teach for 13 years. He left teaching to work for Mann& Hummel, a German automotive supplier, as an engineer and corporate trainer, however he returned to teaching three years later. He earned a M.A. in Career and Technical Education from Western Michigan University in 2000. He has taught Industrial Technology, and has been the Internship Coordinator at East Kentwood High School for three years.

Beth McLaren

J.D. Pierce Middle School, Waterford, Michigan



Beth McLaren has taught 8th grade U. S. History at John D. Pierce Middle School in the Waterford School District since 1997. Ms. McLaren graduated from Eastern Michigan University in 1997 with four minors in Elementary Education; Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, and Children’s Literature. She ultimately became certified in Social Studies and Language Arts. In 2004, she received a Masters in Education from Marygrove College, and is currently a Team Leader in the Waterford district for 8th grade U.S. History.

Matthew Mutschler

Warren Mott High School, Warren, Michigan



Matt Mutschler received a B.A. in U.S. History from Wayne State University in 1997 and his M.A. in Education from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 2004. Matt has been teaching at Warren Mott High School since 1997 where he received both the Warren Consolidated Schools and Sallie Mae Foundation First Year Teacher of the Year award. Since then, he has been honored as the 2005-06 Warren Consolidated Schools Teacher of the Year and recognized four times as “Who’s Who among America’s Teachers.” In addition, Matt serves as a Mentor and Supervising Teacher at Warren Mott High School, and was curriculum developer for WCS in 2004. Outside the classroom, he has been published in *Leadership for Student Activities*, and has presented at WCS District, Michigan

Association of Student Councils, and Warren Mott High School. Furthermore, he served as a Teacher Fellow Mentor during the 2011-2012 session.

Monica Nick

Jefferson Elementary, Redford, Michigan



Monica Nick is a fourth grade teacher at Jefferson Elementary in Redford, Michigan, where she has taught since 2002. She inspires students through hands-on, engaging activities. Projects have included use of technology to create rap and clay animation videos, the experiential economics program, “Mini-Society”, and the Veterans’ Oral History Project for the U.S. Library of Congress. Most recently, Monica was a member of the southeastern Michigan Galileo Leadership Academy for teacher leaders. She has a M.A. in Teaching from Wayne State University. Prior to her education experience, Monica worked at EDS and Detroit Edison.

Tara Robinson

Northwest Elementary School, Jackson, Michigan



Tara Robinson began her teaching career in 1994, and has experience in both 4th and 5th grade classrooms for Northwest Community Schools in Jackson, Michigan. Mrs. Robinson is a Western Michigan University graduate who holds a B.S. in Elementary Education, including minors in Math, Science, and Creative Arts. She was awarded a scholarship to the NASA Space Camp in 1995, a MEEMIC Grant to attend the MSTA Conference in 2009, and has been a Battle Creek Math & Science Center trainer since 2008. She is one of

six teachers who designed the R.I.S.E. Program for struggling learners at Northwest Elementary School in 2006.

Charles Sanecki

Bedford High School, Bedford, Michigan



Charles Sanecki has been teaching automotive technology at Bedford High School in Temperance Michigan since 2000. He received a Bachelors degree in Education from the University of Toledo with a major in Social Studies. He has participated in three *National Endowment for the Humanities* workshops. He studied the Iron Range and its impact on the American Industrial Revolution in Northeastern Minnesota, in 2010. He also studied the Industrial Revolution in Lowell Massachusetts in 2008, and at The Henry Ford Museum in 2007. Charles also was a participant in the June 2008 Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund program. He studied Japanese culture and education in

Japan. He is on the State of Michigan Automotive Technology Academic Alignment and the Michigan Automotive Technical Skills Committee. Mr. Sanecki also served on the *Michigan Models for Career and Technical Education Teacher Evaluation Subgroup of the CTE Research and Data Use Committee*. He also co- founded the Bedford Express FIRST robotics team. His automotive program is Automotive Service Excellence certified, and Mr. Sanecki is an ASE certified automotive technician. He is an active member of South Eastern Michigan Automotive Teachers Association; a member of the North American Council of Automotive Teachers, and the Michigan Industrial Technology Education Society. He is also a Skills USA advisor for Bedford High School.

Toni Simovski

South Lyon Highschool, South Lyon, Michigan



Toni Simovski earned his B. A. from the University of Michigan-Dearborn with a Double Major in History and Political Science. He earned his Master's Degree in Education from The University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School. Mr. Simovski has been teaching since 1999 at South Lyon High School where he primarily teaches AP American Government, American Government and Modern US History (1900 to present) to grades 11-12. He has won several awards such the 2009 Michigan Social Studies Educator of

the Year and the 2007 Michigan Civic Educator of the Year. He was also awarded the 2010 University of Michigan- Dearborn School of Education Alumnus of the Year. Toni was a member of the inaugural Teacher Fellowship Program with the Henry Ford in 2009 where he created itineraries and other educational material. Additionally, he served as the Head Translator for the US Military in Macedonia 1998-1999 and earned Bronze UN medals for his service.

Wayne Wheatley

Detroit Country Day School, Beverly Hills, Michigan



Wayne Wheatley graduated from Wayne State University in 2000 with a Bachelor's degree in Science Education, and is currently finishing his Masters degree in Educational Psychology at the same institution. Mr. Wheatley has been teaching since 2000. For the past five years he has taught 6th grade science and study skills at Detroit Country Day Middle School. He has taught in traditional classrooms and in informal settings such as museums, summer programs, camps, and private tutoring. He

also serves on the National Science Teachers Association's Committee on Informal Science Teaching, and works part-time for the YES Foundation, a non-profit group that helps inner-city students compete academically with their private school peers.

Shanan Wheeler

Franklin High School, Livonia, Michigan

Shanan Wheeler teaches Chemistry, IB Chemistry and Psychology to students at Franklin High School in Livonia. Ms. Wheeler's undergraduate degree is in dietetics from Madonna University, and she completed the teacher education program at the University of Detroit Mercy in 2001. She has a Master's Degree from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in Science Education, and a specialist degree in Educational Leadership at Oakland University. During her tenure with Livonia Public Schools, Shanan has lead several Science Olympiad teams, participated in Project Learning Tree, and the Annual Friends of the Rouge Water Testing Project. Shanan is the current Science Department chairperson at Franklin High School, and is a member of the District Communication Team and Chemistry Steering Committee.



Lisa Wininger

Starr Elementary, Hastings, Michigan

Lisa Wininger, a graduate of the University of California, Davis, and California State University, was a practicing urban planner for a decade before becoming a teacher. Consequently, she has been teaching since 1998. She currently teaches multiple grades, ranging from 2nd to 6th, and serves as the advisor for Starr Elementary's Ecology Club. Her professional activities include "Intel Teach to the Future", The Maury Project, Research Experience for Teachers at Florida State University's Marine and Coastal Lab, and a team leader in the Michigan State University GK-12 Science Inquiry program. Lisa is also involved in the Earth Partnership for Schools Program through the University of Wisconsin, and COSEE Aquanauts.

