

Reading, Writing, and Communicating eUpdate May 2019

“Honoring Educators in the Trenches” Edition



COLORADO
Department of Education

EDUCATORS MATTER

**TEACHER
APPRECIATION WEEK**



#ThankATeacherCO

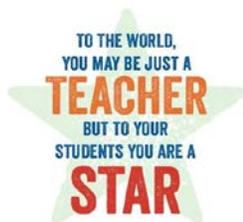
Words cannot accurately describe the deep appreciation we have for our Colorado teachers. On behalf of CDE, THANK YOU for working tirelessly to ensure our students have every opportunity they deserve!

I would nominate my daughter's ELA teacher, Sean Malloy, of Lakewood High School. He is so inspiring and is her favorite teacher. He went so far as to leave me a voice mail during the first part of the year to tell me about her abilities and progress - a positive call home, of course I still have the voice mail saved on my cell. The kids in the school absolutely adore him, his classes are so engaging and he truly cares about them as individuals.

Shawna Fritzer
Parent

Let's Meet A Few All-Stars!

In April, I asked for nominations for English language arts/literacy teachers, specialists, and paraprofessionals you wished to honor in this edition of the RWC e-Update. Thank you to all who responded! Let's meet a few of Colorado's teaching all-stars!



Victoria Small, 8th grade ELA Teacher, Mountain Vista Community School in Harrison School District Two, Colorado Springs, CO

Throughout this school year, I have seen Ms. Small work tirelessly to increase rigor and engagement in her classroom as she strives to deliver high quality instruction every day. Ms. Small does not take her job as an educator lightly and places high expectations on herself as a teacher to craft lessons which allow students to continuously work towards mastery of Colorado's Reading, Writing, and Communication standards.

On any given day, her students are completing close reading activities and then utilizing high levels of academic vocabulary in written responses while supporting their thinking with text evidence. In addition, Ms. Small has shown strong leadership skills in moving other teachers forward as we adopt a new curriculum and look for ways that we can bridge the gap between a given curriculum and what our HSD2 students need. Her presence within both her school and within our district Reading, Writing, and Communicating team of educators deserves to be noticed and honored!

Kasey Andrade Smith
Coordinator, HSD2

Sean Malloy, ELA Teacher, Lakewood High School, Jefferson County Schools District, Lakewood, CO

Taryn Wilson, Literacy Interventionist, Belleview Elementary, Cherry Creek Schools District, Aurora, CO

Taryn has met with 3rd grade for PLC to consistently review data and group students based on their needs. She takes an active role in supporting all students by offering push in and pull out support. In addition, Taryn never says no to a student who needs support. She always sees the best in kids and is consistently pushing them to achieve their personal goals. On a professional level, Taryn is always a great resource for all literacy needs, and she is a gifted teacher, especially in writing.

Kimberlee Reed
3rd grade Teacher, Belleview Elementary, CCSD

Corina Kaskey, Literacy Resource Teacher, Silverthorne Elementary, Summit RE-1 Schools District, Silverthorne, CO

Corina works tirelessly, after hours, on weekends and in the summer to make sure all children have access to high-quality books. As an interventionist, she works collaboratively with teachers to plan best instruction when pushing into classrooms. Corina volunteers in the planning of the CCIRA Conference every year in order to support quality professional development for teachers. Corina has so much fun with the children she teaches and often is invited to their birthday parties and family events. Of course she attends when she can!

Hollyanna Bates
Summit RE-1 Schools District

Hayley Raitz, ELA teacher, Mitchell High School, Colorado Springs Schools District 11, Colorado Springs, CO

D11 has a true teaching phenomenon at Mitchell High School. Hayley Raitz was just named a Crystal Apple Award winner. Here's a snapshot of why:

As a teacher in one of our schools with the greatest student growth opportunities, Hayley has the

Reading, Writing, and Communicating eUpdate May 2019

“Honoring Educators in the Trenches” Edition



COLORADO
Department of Education

challenge of working with students from varying backgrounds, all with different styles, needs, and expectations, and she handles it flawlessly. The best teachers are aware of the challenges our students face, including academics, home life, social issues, athletics, activities, and more, while also appreciating the challenges our teachers face—resources, time, funding, and more. Mrs. Raitz is already a master quality educator accustomed to working independently, leading teams, and assessing difficult situations to create positive outcomes. She also has a knack for supporting students often deemed “difficult” for a variety of reasons, as well as those who need additional challenges and opportunities to stretch their thinking. She’s built a solid understanding of students, our academic standards, and best instructional practices, and Hayley also established a strong professional reputation among teachers, parents, and administrators at the building and district levels.

Rita Pierson spoke often of the value and power of relationships, and very few embody this understanding more than Hayley Raitz. When working with our readers most in need, Hayley had a knack for empowering them—for instilling a belief that an adult not only cared about their success, but also firmly believed they could achieve anything. Her persistence and ability to break through to virtually any student resulted not only in stellar growth data, but more importantly, some of her struggling readers went on to then take advanced and college level courses, to pursue challenges, and to believe in their own potential for greatness. In fact, one of Hayley’s former students became a Boettcher scholar who then named Hayley as the teacher who had the greatest impact on her education.

In choosing to recognize Hayley, you are recognizing someone with deep understanding of all aspects of classroom instruction and content and remains focused on building opportunities for students to achieve their goals regardless of unique situations that arise.

Dr. Shelmon N. Brown
K-12 ELA & Literacy Facilitator, D-11

Alexis Bailey, 6th grade ELA Tacher, Discovery Canyon Campus Middle School, Academy District 20 Colorado Springs

Alexis is a first-year teacher in the Alternative Licensure Program (ALP) at UCCS and has been commended by both her principal and her school mentor for her student-centered approach and her value as a team player. Alexis and her mentor

teacher, Ben Straka, work tirelessly to deliver engaging and meaningful units aligned to the CAS in Reading, Writing, and Communicating. As sixth grade teachers they lay the foundation for a guaranteed and viable curriculum for the rest of their students’ school careers. Unlike many first-year teachers, who experience academic standards as an intimidating list of discrete skills, Alexis sees the big picture. She understands how standards give her a framework for developing students’ curiosity, critical thinking, and character. In addition, she excels at Teacher Quality Standard I.A.6, “The teacher implements and communicates learning objectives and student outcomes based on standards.” Day in and day out, Alexis’s skills at helping students understand what they will be learning and why are among the best I’ve seen.

Every time I visit her classroom, Alexis’s collection of notes of respect, appreciation, and affection has grown, and so has her students’ grasp of the complex texts under study. Alexis is diligent about meeting the full array of needs represented in her classroom – English Learners, students with IEPs or 504s or Advance Learning Plans, or simply students who need a smile, a wink, or a thumbs-up. When her colleagues praise her for being a “natural teacher,” they are saying that she exudes the kind of warmth, directness, and authentic concern that make students want to learn from her.

Beth Cutter, Senior Instructor & ALP Coordinator
UCCS College of Education



Thank you to all who sent nominations to “Honor Educators in the Trenches.”

Olivia Gillespie
RWC Content Specialist

NCTE, CLAS, CCIRA

CLAS: October 5, 2019 at the Tivoli Union, Auraria Campus, Denver, Colorado.

NCTE: November 21-24, 2019 in Baltimore, MD. Registration rates prior to November 11th

Contact Info

Please feel free to contact me at gillespie_o@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6583.