

KARENA K. NELSON

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

expected 2017

Certificate of Advanced Study in Education, concentration in Instructional Coaching

Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, New York

1998

Master's in Educational Psychology

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

1995

Bachelor's in Secondary Education, English concentration. Magna cum laude. Wrote honor's thesis on gender differences in the English classroom.

Illinois Type 09 certificate to teach English in grades 6-12

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Glenbrook North High School, Northbrook, Illinois

2001-2017

English Teacher

- Designed curriculum for many courses, including senior electives and sophomore English.
- Co-taught in the Glenbrook Academy of International Studies, working with world language and social studies teachers on classes with global citizenship focus.
- Led the sophomore team, including designing professional development workshops and articulating shared curriculum.
- Mentored student teachers and first year teachers, guiding their development in lesson planning, classroom management, and meeting professional expectations.
- Helped to develop the Academic Resource Center, increasing support services for students.
- Differentiated instruction for English language learners, special needs students, and culturally diverse students.
- Incorporated a variety of technologies, including online discussion boards, Screencastify, Moodle and Google Classroom.

Warren Township High School, Gurnee, Illinois

1998-2001

English Teacher

- Taught a variety of senior elective courses including Ancient Literature, Modern World Literature, Advanced Composition, and Twentieth Century American Literature.
- Designed curriculum for students who had previously failed sophomore English.
- Differentiated instruction for heterogeneously grouped students, including mainstreamed special education students and English language learners.
- Served as a technology mentor.
- Started a self-defense program for girls and a film club.

PRESENTATIONS

- “Expanding Your Teaching Toolbox: Classroom Activities that Promote Engagement, Critical Thinking, and Close Reading of Any Text.” How Reading Makes Us More Human, DuPage County-wide Institute Day, 3 March 2017, Wheaton North High School. (Updated and solo)
- “Widening Our Curriculum: Resources and Activities for Addressing Race in the Classroom.” Creating a More Inclusive Environment for Our Diverse Learners, Northfield Township Annual Articulation, 4 November 2016, Glenbrook South High School. Co-presented with Karen Cunningham.
- “Expanding Your Teaching Toolbox: Classroom Activities that Promote Engagement, Critical Thinking, and Close Reading of Any Text.” Annual Convention of the National Council of Teachers of English, 19 November 2011, Chicago, IL. Co-presented with Amy Goldsmith and Virna Odiotti.
- Designed and delivered department workshop “The 4th R: Alternative Strategies for Critical Thinking,” 10 June 2002.
- “One Model, A World of Possibilities: Teaching with the Modes of Literary Analysis.” Co-presented with John Cowlin and Paul Kemp at
 - Annual Convention of the National Council of Teachers of English, 16 November 2000, Milwaukee, WI.
 - Annual Convention of the Illinois Association of Teachers of English, 20 October 2001, Springfield, IL.
 - Glenbrook Institute Day, 6 March 2001, Northbrook, IL.

PUBLICATIONS

- Designed Next Time Teaching (nexttimeteaching.com) to share classroom resources and thoughts on education.
- Co-authored the chapter “Am I a Liar? The Angst of a High School English Teacher.” *What is “College-level” Writing?* Ed. Patrick Sullivan & Howard Tinberg. Urbana, IL: NCTE, 2006. 36-40.

SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Successfully completed post-graduate coursework on differentiating instruction for gifted learners, conflict resolution, linguistics, and Asian literature.
- Attended conferences on topics including reading strategies in the secondary classroom, cultural awareness, 21st century literacy, teaching Shakespeare, and Middle Eastern literature.
- Volunteered with many organizations, including Chicago Cares, Deborah’s Place and Faith in Action Evanston.