

# KARENA K. NELSON

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## 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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, 21<sup>st</sup> century literacy, teaching Shakespeare, and Middle Eastern literature.
- Volunteered with many organizations, including Chicago Cares, Deborah’s Place and Faith in Action Evanston.