

2016 DISTINGUISHED GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS



Left to right: Kelli Shusko, Sheri Bole, Virginia Sylvester, and Amy Hampton



Amy Hampton

John Bassett Moore Middle School

Smyrna SD

Amy has led the way in all of Smyrna School District's efforts to enhance the teaching and learning of geography in the middle school. She has been meticulous in aligning middle school instructional units to the geography and Common Core literacy standards, creating quality, common assessments for those units, and leading data-driven PLC discussions to help her teachers meet the needs of students. Amy has a refreshing approach to professional learning that makes her very easy to work with and dependable for insightful, productive leadership. Amy also takes an active interest in furthering her own understanding of geography having joined us in the last three major professional development sessions we have presented.



Sheri Bole Postlethwaite Middle School Caesar Rodney SD

Mrs. Bole’s passion for teaching geography comes through each day in her social studies classes. She has accepted the responsibility of preparing her students to become informed and active citizens who accept their responsibilities, understand their rights, and participate actively in a global society. For example, while they are building their “global mental maps”, the students compete in an “Amazing Race” which will help them learn the locations of over 80 cities and countries, rivers and mountain ranges. Students use Schoology and Google apps to research and learn. By providing her students with an active, highly engaging learning environment, Mrs. Sherry Bole helps them find their passion for geography and to be ready to meet the challenge of becoming a successful global citizen.



Virginia Sylvester Cooke Elementary School Red Clay SD

Virginia has been an indispensable member of the Red Clay social studies community and has contributed to the elementary curriculum by creating unit maps, sequencing and pacing guides, and identifying supplemental materials that support the Delaware Recommended Curriculum. Her keen ability to make connections for students and teachers through all content areas is apparent in the work that she has developed for the district curriculum. Upon closer examination of her contributions, one sees a geographic thread throughout the curriculum she has designed and the question of “why there?” is always evident. Virginia understands that while map skills are important, geographic content must be expanded to include concepts of regions, systems, and patterns. She is described as one of the district’s finest elementary teachers.



Kelli Shusko

Eisenberg Elementary School

Colonial School SD

The foundation for social studies commences in Kindergarten. Learning comes alive in the welcoming and respectful environment that Kelly creates. Too often, social studies is “lost” in the shuffle of other mandates and test preparation, but not in Kelly’s class: she is a strong advocate for the social studies and, specifically, geography education. Since joining Colonial, Kelly continues to impress those who work with her and she is dedicated to the Eisenberg community. She brings geography—and our standards—to life in the room. Her activities are consistently meaningful and considerate of the diverse nature of her students. Noteworthy is her intense passion and love of Alaska and the Iditarod. Her lessons incorporate careful planning and technology and reflect genuine rigor and high expectations for all students.