



Name: Melissa Miller

Content area(s) that you currently teach: Science and Social Studies

Employer: Farmington School District, Randall G. Lynch Middle School

Work address: 359 W. Rheas Mill Road, Farmington, AR 72730

Work phone: (479) 266-1840

E-mail address: mmiller@farmcards.org

Melissa Miller currently teaches science and social studies at Randall G. Lynch Middle School in Farmington, AR. She has more than 28 years of experience in the classroom, primarily in science.

Miller has taught kindergarten, third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades and a variety of subjects. She has served as a mentor teacher, head of the Science Department, ACSIP chair and as a reviewer for Corwin Press.

Miller is a 2003 Milken National Educator and a 2001 Presidential Awardee in Science.

She served as a member of the national writing team for the Next Generation Science Standards. She has been an RET teacher, associated with the University of Arkansas Industrial Engineering Department since 2003, and is currently a co-director of the IE Challenge competition for middle and high school students.

Miller is a member of the Arkansas State Teachers Association. She served as the District VII director for the National Science Teachers Association from 2008 to 2011 and is past president of the Arkansas Science Teachers Association, for which she is a lifetime member.

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” – W.E. Yeats

“I believe that the first step in igniting the fire for learning is to understand where my students are coming from, not only in their academic understanding of the content area, but also in their personal experiences. Having this knowledge of my students helps me to utilize their strengths in the classroom and also construct the necessary scaffolding to help all of my students achieve success.” Miller believes students need opportunities for collaboration in order to learn from each other. She believes this can be accomplished by engaging students in problem-

based learning because it changes the classroom from being a place where passive learning exists to an environment where students are actively engaged through problem solving and applying knowledge.

Miller is available to speak, conduct workshops, and/or serve on committees around the following topics:

- NGSS
- Engineering in middle school and high school
- Performance assessment
- Formative assessments
- Integrating science with common core mathematics and literacy
- Problem/project based learning
- Student engagement