

Memo to: Board of Trustees
Memo from: Dr. Derek Citty
Re: Science Specialist Recommendation
Date: April 20, 2015

The newly created Science Specialist position was approved by the Board of Trustees on March 17th and posted on March 18th. We received 12 applications, which included 3 internal candidates and 9 external candidates. Four candidates were selected from the application pool for the interview process, 3 internal and 1 external.

We are pleased to recommend Michelle Yates, an internal candidate, to the Board for approval in the position of Science Specialist. If Ms. Yates receives Board approval tonight, we anticipate a start date of July 1, 2015.

Background Information:

Michelle has a total of 20 years of experience in public school education. During this time span, she served 6 years as the elementary science specialist at Coder, she has taught science to students in grades K-8 and secured her Masters of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis on physics. She has been an integral part in the on-going development and revision of the AISD science scope and sequence.

In addition, Michelle has extensive experience in offering professional development to her peers. On a state-level she served as an instructor for the TEA Statewide Science Academy Initiative which was promoted through Regional Service Centers, and conducted workshops for the state and regional science conferences (CAST and mini-CAST). Locally, she is a district trainer for Thinking Maps, technology integration and provides summer staff development for science teachers. Her most recent training for her own professional growth has been in the area of STEM and T-STEM. Her recent STEM training will be beneficial in curriculum planning for high school courses relating to CTE.

Michelle also has vast experience in securing internal grants through the AEF and external grants such as the Disney Plant Challenge, Texas Healthy Habitat, Target Field Trip, and the Toyota Tapestry Environmental Large Grant. She has successfully secured approximately \$50,000 in grant monies to promote science and technology initiatives in Aledo ISD. As a result of her grant work, her students received recognition as top 20 National finalist in the Disney Planet Challenge in 2012. In 2010, her students were selected as the Disney Planet Challenge State of Texas Winners.

Bob Harmon had this to say about Michelle, "She is as good of a teacher as everyone has said...I was in her class today and she was making 6th grade students think at a level I have not seen. She is a team player and a great grant writer. She would be a good one to have in this position".

Lastly, Michelle has received many accolades as a science teacher including: 2006 Presidential Awardee for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, 2007 Texas Medical Association Butler Award for Excellence in Science Teaching, 2012 Marva Collins Aledo ISD Teacher of the Year, and the 2013 Region 11 Teacher of the Year. Even with all these accolades, Michelle shared with me her most significant achievement in education today is when students remain excited about science and come back to her years later to talk about their accomplishments in the field.