

Colorado 2010 Online Elementary Teacher of the Year



Peggy Gillham Barnholt is a 32 year veteran teacher. This is her third year at Colorado Connections Academy, Mapleton School District, where in addition to being an elementary special education teacher, she is the Manager of Special Education Services. From a class of 36 fourth and fifth graders in Denver's Five Points neighborhood, to a self-contained classroom for students with emotional disabilities, to a special education cross-categorical resource room, teaching in a traditional brick and mortar setting provided her with a wealth of experience that has uniquely transferred to online learning.

Prior studies of Professional Learning Communities helped her quickly step into a leadership role. Her familiarity with Response to Intervention strategies assisted all staff members when she coordinated the Student Support Team. Best of all, her CDE sponsored certification as a Trainer of Paraprofessionals was excellent preparation for working with the virtual students' on site Learning Coaches.

Peggy was awarded a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in both elementary and K-12 special education from Northwestern State University of Louisiana. She earned a Master of Arts degree in special education here in Colorado at the University of Denver.

Colorado 2010 Online Secondary Teacher of the Year



Kristin Kipp has been teaching for ten years and has been involved in online education for the last four years through course revision, course development, and online teaching. Currently she is a full time high school English teacher and instructional leader for Jeffco's 21st Century Virtual Academy, Jefferson County School District. In her career at Jefferson County, she has taught 8th-12th grade English, been a department chair/instructional leader, and served as an instructional coach teaching other teachers. For the past three years she has also been involved with Colorado Online Learning, teaching adjunct courses as well as serving as Director of Curriculum and Instruction for one year. She is passionate about providing all students with a quality education.

In her online courses, Kristin stresses three primary connections. First, students should be deeply connected with content, engaging critical thinking as they learn new content and practice skills. Second, students should be connected with their teacher. Students need to know that there is a caring teacher on the other end of the computer who will not allow them to settle for mediocrity. Finally, students should be connected with each other. Learning is rarely a solitary pursuit, even online. Students need to be interacting with each other to help their learning deepen and broaden.

Kristin earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from MidAmerica Nazarene University and her Masters degree in Secondary Education with graduate minors in English and psychology from the University of North Texas.