



Duane Unger – Colby, KS

Duane Unger believes that each student comes with a unique set of needs and desires. He further feels that each student deserves to be in a classroom where he/she feels safe and respected and is encouraged to develop into a caring and productive young adult. He wants his students to develop their communication, problem-solving and reasoning skills to be successful in their chosen careers.

His educational background comes from Kansas State University, where he earned a BS in Agriculture with a minor in Science in 1960 and a MS in Agriculture Economics with a minor in Education in 1964. He also has grown professional through numerous conferences, in-services, and professional development opportunities throughout the years.

For 30 years he has taught in Kansas. From 1962 to 1974 he taught Science, Math and Economics classes at Colby Junior and Senior High School. From 2002 to 2020 he taught Chemistry I, Chemistry II, and Earth Sciences at Goodland High School. He also has taught General Chemistry teaching dual credit classes at Colby Community College and Northwest Kansas Technical College.

Throughout his career he has been recognized for his work. He received the Goodland Alumni Association Outstanding Educator award selected by students in 2012 and 2018. He was also awarded the Apple Educator award in 2017. served on the Professional Teaching Standards Advisory Board to Kansas Board of Education. He also founded the Duane and Lois Unger Scholarship which has provided 15 scholarships to Goodland ad Colby graduating seniors 2012 to present.

He is also involved in his community. He is an American Red Cross Emergency Shelter Volunteer, a Red Cross Blood Donor and a Thomas County Red Cross Board member. He is Colby Gun and Coin Show concession volunteer. He is a Choir member, Sunday School Teacher, and Vacation Bible School Teacher for his church. He started the Northwest Kansas League Junior High Science Fair, is a life Member of NEA and helped supervise a class for Senior Citizens Fall Yard Cleanup from 2004-2019. He also was a sponsor and helper for the Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner from 2006-2019.

Bill Biermann, superintendent for Mr. Unger, says “ I believe Mr. Unger is greatness. He is one of the most loved and respected teachers in our district. He represents the voice of reason. He is a calm and influential professional for his colleagues and our building. A great teacher is one who can relate his content to his students. The most common phrase I hear from students in regards to his class is that he explains things in a way they understand. Whether it is his love for his students, his voice of reason, or his unique ability to teach complex information; I can think of no one more deserving.”

A colleague of Duane Unger, Brian Coon, says “He is highly regarded by all who know him and deservedly so.” We recognize and welcome Duane to the KTHOF class of 2020.