



Modesto (Les) Limón – El Dorado, KS

Mr. Limón grew up in a migrant family of workers. His parents wanted him to finish school. His Mother's goal was for her son to graduate and stay out of jail, which became his goal as well. His goal has become the goal he wants for his students as well. He says, "I want to enable them to make their own decisions by helping them learn critical thinking skills. My goal is to give my students the best opportunity for success by instilling in the the proper mindset to succeed. Equipped with the right knowledge, skills, and perseverance, students truly can achieve anything."

His path toward education began with getting his High School Diploma from Sananta High School in 1965. From there he earned his BS in Elementary Education from Kansas State Teacher's College in 1969, a MS in Elementary Counseling from ESU in 1973, and then further graduate courses from Fort Hays State, Pittsburg State, Kansas State, and Wichita State Universities over several years.

With his degree completed, he began teaching at Washington Elementary school in El Dorado,KS in 1969. He taught one year of fourth grade students and then five years of sixth grade math, science, and reading. In 1975 he moved to Jefferson Elementary and continued to teach sixth graders. From there he moved to El Dorado Middle School in 1982 and taught sixth grade math and science for 10 years. In 1992 he began working as a Guidance Counselor for grades 6, 7, and 8. This brings his working years to 51 as an educator in the same school district.

He earned a KU Twenty-five Year Achievement Award and was honored as an Extra-Ordinary Eucharist Minister at St. John The Evangelist Catholic Church. He served as Chairperson of KNEA Human and Civil Rights Committee and was President of El Dorado NEA. He holds a Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus in Augusta, KS and a Third Degree Knights of Columbus in El Dorado, KS. He developed the Cross-Country Program at EMS and was a Translator and Advocate for Hispanic Families in El Dorado. Along with all of these achievements he also held positions as Boys Basketball Coach Cross-Country Coach, Football Coach, Girls Basketball Coach, and Track Coach.

Using Spanish as a second language provides him the ability to work with and advocate for Spanish-speaking families. Not only helping with school, but court appearances, doctor situations and papers that need filing. It was important that parents were not hindered by language barriers in many areas. Extra opportunities to serve outside the school strengthened his relationships with students, their families, and the community as a whole.

Kelly Paye, who is a colleague of his, says "I have been blessed to have a mentor such as Mr. Limón. He has been a constant source of support, information and advice. As a counselor, he has either seen or handled almost any situation that occurs. He never gets flustered and he is the

epitome of calm in a crisis. We all look up to him to keep us sane and focused.” We are proud to welcome him to the KTHOF class of 2020