



## ***Kris Trimmer – Winfield, KS***

Kris Trimmer believes that “good teachers are motivators who must be well versed in their subject matter which requires going beyond what is in the textbook”. When asked about her educational goals and teaching philosophy, she quoted Ralph Waldo Emerson who once said, “Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.” She believes enthusiasm is contagious and it will cause students to “become involved in and ultimately responsible for their own education.”

Her journey to becoming a teacher began in 1971 at Emporia State University. From there, she went to Southwestern College where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree with Magna Cum Laude recognition in 1975. Then in 2009 she earned her Master’s in Curriculum and Instruction from Wichita State University. She has also participated in numerous summer institutes and seminars at various universities.

Her 28-year career began in 1976 at Douglass High School. She taught there for four years, followed by many years of teaching summer school and substituting in Ark City and Winfield. She became a full-time staff member at Winfield High School in 1997. Over the course of her career she taught American History, World Cultures, Current Events, Psychology, Sport Psychology, U.S. Government, Advanced Placement Government and Politics, Leadership and College Public Speaking.

Kris served as a member of the WHS Building Leadership Team (2012-2017) and the Renaissance Committee (2004-2018). She also sponsored Student Council (2006-2018), Spirit Squad (2000-2016) and Kids Impacting Cowley County (2012-2018). She co-authored the application for the Kansas Civic Engagement Award which WHS won in 2020. She has earned a variety of awards and recognitions for her dedication to her profession. She was named WNEA Master Teacher (2005), was honored as KNEA Walnut Valley Uniserv Outstanding Local President (2008), was selected as the Kansas Student Council Advisor of the Year (2017) and was inducted into the Southwestern College Education Hall of Fame (2018). Kris is also active in her community as a member of Women for Kansas (2015-present) and an elder in the Presbyterian Church (1986-present). Most recently, she has been appointed to the Winfield Public Library Board and has become a member of P.E.O.

Jay H. Buffum writes that he has known Mrs. Trimmer as a teacher, mentor, colleague, supporter, and friend. He notes that Kris' teaching was not merely just an occupation, but "rather her calling to serve – her desire to inspire, and her ability to move mountains when it comes to serving others." He feels she is "an unstoppable force for good." Mr. Buffum continues by stating "She is the definition of a committed educator who works tirelessly to see her students succeed and grow." These are some of the reasons that we feel Kris Trimmer is a quality candidate to become a member of the Kansas Teachers' Hall of Fame, and we welcome her to the Class of 2021.