



Toni Wolff – Caldwell, KS

Toni writes that her philosophy of teaching is the belief that “all children can learn and have the right to learn without interference from other students.” She also believes that “learning should be an enjoyable experience for students.” Her goal as an educator has been to use her abilities to help students become successful in life. She says, “I believe that having a dedication of teaching, a sense of humor, lots of patience, good organizational and leadership skills, and a high level of energy contribute to ones’ being an outstanding teacher.”

In May of 1968 she was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Education with majors in Secondary Mathematics and English from Kansas State Teachers College which is now Emporia State University. She received a Master of Education degree from Southwestern College of Winfield, KS in May of 1991 and has further graduate hours about her master’s from both Friends University and Wichita State University. Along with her degrees she has participated in numerous conferences, network events, and workshops to enhance her teaching. She is also active in numerous education associations, both active and retired.

Her full-time employment began in 1968 through 1971 as a Math Teacher at Madison High School for 9th through 12th grade students. In 1972 and 1973 she taught Math courses at Atchison County High School. In 1976-77 she worked as a Math Instructor for Caldwell High School, followed by 1983-2012 as a Math and English instructor for 7th through 12th grade students at Caldwell Schools. From 1974 to 1983 she was a substitute teaching in all levels covering all subjects at Caldwell, Argonia, and South Haven. She also served as an Adjunct Professor for Cowley County Community College in Ark City, KS from 1996 – 2003 and 1998-2012. She has covered lots of jobs while substituting, including office secretary!

While teaching she has received many honors and awards. She was the Walmart Teacher of the year in 2000, Who’s Who among America’s Teachers 2000,2002,2004,2005 and 2006, the USD 360 District Nominee for Kansas Teacher of the Year in 2001 and a Member of Kansas Teacher of Year class of 2001. She was chosen by students for the KSHSAA Award of Excellence in 2002. Her work also has included community involvement with the Sumner County Fair Association Board, 4-H Community Leader, County Extension Council Member, and member and officer of the Caldwell Schools Parent group the Bluejay Backers. Her participation in the community reaches into her Church work as well. She is a Church Treasurer, pianist, music coordinator, and member of the Bell Choir. She is a Member of Corbin United Methodist Church.

Melissa Atkins, a former student reports the Mrs. Wolff helped her realize the connection between Math and the real world. She further explained that Mrs. Wolff always took time to find out what each student needed to succeed and spent much of her free time helping students after school and on weekends. She states, “Mrs. Wolff always went the extra mile to make sure students would succeed.” These are some of the reasons we welcome her to the Kansas Teachers’ Hall of Fame in the class of 2021.