

Robin Rogers Shrode

Co-founder



Passionately invested in education for over 30 years, Robin Shrode has been a Middle School Teacher and Counselor of the Year, District Small Learning Communities Project Director, and Coordinator of Professional Development for a large urban/suburban school district. She served as a Practitioner Advisor, a nationally formed group of practitioners supported and funded by the US Department of Education and Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL) for federally funded Small Learning Communities grant recipients, and has led successful and sustained reform at the secondary level.

As a founding partner of American Alliance for Innovative Schools, Robin works as a consultant, coach and trainer in the areas of educational reform, specifically in strategic planning and organizational alignment, leadership development, increasing instructional capacity through professional learning communities, and the implementation of small learning communities in secondary schools. She is the co-creator of the *Teaching for Understanding Planning Cycle*© and the training modules that support instructional planning, delivery and analysis of student work. Robin has worked with Education Northwest (formerly NWREL), WestEd, Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL) and has served on the Board of Directors of the Texas Staff Development Council (now Learning Forward Texas), the state affiliate of the National Staff Development Council (Learning Forward).

Robin works with educational systems and districts across the nation in systems improvement efforts and logistics as well as trains school staff to improve teaching and learning processes. She also presents at national conferences and conducts highly acclaimed regional institutes and workshops. Robin lives in Rockwall, Texas with her husband, James, and is the step-mother of four fabulous children and three perfect grandchildren.

Robin's Contact Information

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David Holden

Co-founder



Since entering the education profession in 1990, David Holden has been a true change agent and a highly visible leader in several significant school reform efforts. He has spearheaded his school's efforts in implementing Smaller Learning Communities, Structured English Immersion, and Formative Assessment and now supports schools and districts across the country on their college and career readiness efforts. In 2005, David, his wife Mary, and their high school received a California School Boards Association Golden Bell award in the category of Innovative High School Transition Courses for the transition course they designed. David is well versed in multiple disciplines and his background as an elementary and high school teacher and his multilingualism serve him well when approaching secondary literacy issues. He is recognized by his peers as a skilled instructor, and his skill at engaging teachers increases teacher effectiveness which improves student learning.

Since entering the education profession in 1990, David Holden has been a true change agent and a highly visible leader in several significant school reform efforts. He has spearheaded his school's efforts in implementing Smaller Learning Communities, Structured English Immersion, and Formative Assessment and now supports schools and districts across the country on their college and career readiness efforts.

As an instructional coach, David works with teachers across all disciplines to refine pedagogy, implement sound instructional and assessment practices, and to develop instructional leadership. He is the co-creator of the *Teaching for Understanding Planning Cycle*® and the training modules that support instructional planning, delivery and analysis of student work. David has worked frequently with the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL) and WestEd on several instructional leadership institutes. In 2006, David co-founded the American Alliance for Innovative Schools and currently works at the national level with districts in the area of middle/high school reform. He currently partners with schools and districts as an instructional coach and provides professional development and consultation work primarily in the areas of effective instructional strategies, scaffolding instruction for English Learners, formative assessment, standards-based grading, instructional coaching, and increasing teacher capacities through professional learning teams. In 2007, David was recognized by the California League of High Schools as a regional finalist for Educator of the Year.

David currently lives in Nashville, Tennessee with his wife Mary and their daughters Julia and Diana.

Testimonials

“As Project Director of Smaller Learning Communities in Nashville, TN, I would like to endorse the work of Robin Shrode and David Holden. They have worked with teachers and administrators in 8 of our comprehensive high schools. We have piloted a model of ongoing support with them that has provided teams of teachers with models and strategies that they have practiced throughout the year. Their formal trainings have also been valuable to our system.”

Starr Herman
Director of SLCs
Metro Nashville Public Schools, Nashville, TN

“The team of professionals from AAIS have served our school community for 4 years now and are instrumental in our success. Mary, Dave, Robin and others have become part of the Monticello family. Our administrators, teachers, and students have been the beneficiaries of a series of customized and well-planned professional development sessions in team building, leadership, scheduling, program gap analysis, data analysis, portfolio/student-led conferences, and project-based learning. Their advice, flexibility, knowledge, and leadership have helped us implement many strategies and techniques in the classroom, as well as build and expand our SLC program.”

Christopher Russo
SLC Project Director
Monticello High School
Monticello, NY

“Because of Robin’s work with us, we have gone from simply planning together to problem solving difficult instructional issues. It has been wonderful to see teachers truly working together to achieve student success.”

Catherine Henry
Assistant Principal
Grapevine High School
Grapevine-Colleyville ISD, Grapevine, TX

“In my seventeen years as a high school principal, David is responsible for the most dramatic impact on student learning and teacher effectiveness of any professional with whom I’ve worked. “

Louise Phipps
Former Principal
Mar Vista High School
Imperial Beach, CA

Testimonials

“Our school is so fortunate to have Dave and Robin as guides on our SLC journey! They bring a wealth of knowledge and an unequalled ability to bond with teams and help members identify their own learning needs. Their coaching is straightforward, uplifting, and always centered around what is best for students. I honestly believe our teachers would follow them anywhere!”

Connie Hensley
SLC Site Coach
Hillwood High School
Metro Nashville Public Schools, Nashville, TN

“The consultants from the American Alliance for Innovative Schools have been an invaluable resource during our school improvement efforts. They have helped us by looking at our individual goals, directing us to research based best practices tailored to these goals, and mentoring us through the difficult process of change. Their help saved us time, money, and resources as well as gave us confidence to move forward.

Robin Shrode has become a member of our school family through her work in our school. She is not just a brilliant expert in the field; rather, she is an essential member of our high school redesign efforts. She has worked with our high schools for over three years and is always an email or phone call away. She knows our individual struggles, successes and needs – and is always available to listen, give advice, and share her expertise at a moment's notice.”

Bill Brooks
SLC Coordinator
Truman High School
Independence School District, Independence, MO

“I cannot tell you how rewarding it was for me to have Dave Holden observe me and stay after school for three hours just brainstorming. He truly knows how to engage students and motivate teachers to keep doing what we are doing. Dave agreed to work with the NGA (Ninth Grade Academy) biology department on assessments. After school, Dave also critiqued my strategies and gave me more effective strategies to strengthen my instruction.”

Ms. N. Neal
Biology Teacher
McGavock High School
Metro Nashville Public Schools, Nashville, TN