



2011 STATE RECOGNITION AWARDS

INDIVIDUAL AWARD #3

For influencing the instructional leadership and professional growth of educators

Mark Ray

Teacher Librarian, Skyview High School
Vancouver Public Schools

Mark Ray's contributions as a teacher leader have made a tremendous impact at the school, district, county, and state level. He has redefined what it means to be a Teacher Librarian in his practice at Skyview High School, through his modeling and guidance of fellow Teacher Librarians at the district level, and in his interactions with job-alikes at the ESD and state level. He has a deep understanding of visionary twenty-first century learning environments and works tirelessly through pilots and providing professional development offerings to others to make these practices a reality in classrooms.

Mr. Ray leads by example, beginning by setting the highest expectations for himself. One example is his work in developing the role of Teacher Librarians as technology integration leaders in their buildings. In this capacity, he models, inspires, innovates, coaches, cheerleads, and mentors, and his enthusiasm and energy are contagious. Most compelling, are the changes in practice that have occurred due to his efforts. In collaboration with classroom teachers, teacher librarians have co-planned and co-delivered lessons that align with state standards – from digital citizenship to the integration of 21st century tools such as podcasting, Prezi, and e-books. Mark supports and models significant connections between curriculum, instruction and assessment, as well as the effective use of technology tools.

In addition, Mark advocates at the local and state level. He has nurtured a partnership with Teacher Librarians in a neighboring district so that both districts can benefit from sharing practices. He assisted in planning and facilitating a session at the NCCE Conference in Portland in early March, addressing the changing context for the role of teacher librarians. Mark also provided testimony to the Washington Legislature in support of SSB 5392, specifically supporting the inclusion of education technology as part of basic education.

Mark Ray is a confident and competent leader, but is equally comfortable participating as a supportive team member of a variety of school and district task forces and work groups. He serves on the Vancouver district K-12 Instructional Leadership team and the Flexible Learning Environment Task Force. His contributions to these teams push the envelope of innovative instructional practice and keep the outcomes focused on meeting the needs of today's students.