CLASSROOM CHRONICLES

INSPIRING INFLUENCE

How a St. Charles Parish Teacher Leader Advisor Supports Student and Educator Success

DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION
Louisiana Believes

Louisiana Teacher Leaders is a group of over 5,000 outstanding educators, representing every school in the state, who are focused on high expectations for students. This group was born from the belief that, in order to create a coherent system of instruction aligned to the state's academic standards, the Department must also provide teachers and schools with high-quality, curriculum-based assessments and professional development. In order to do this, the Department recruits **Teacher Leader Advisors (TLAs)**. These educators have an influential role in raising expectations for students and supporting the success of teachers. They use their robust knowledge of teaching and learning to review and create the next wave of high-quality instructional materials and training tools that are used by thousands of teachers across the state.

TLA ADVISORS
COLLABORATE. CREATE. IMPACT.

- **create instructional and assessment resources, such as the ELA Guidebooks,**
- **participate in the Instructional Materials Review process, and**
- **lead sessions at the annual Teacher Leader Summit.**

As the Department searches for highly-motivated educators to become TLAs, we sat down with **Amy Crochet, of Hahnville High School in St. Charles Parish** to understand the role and its importance.

Crochet has been in the TLA role for the last year. In that time, she has not only grown as an educator but has also become a leader among her peers.

> **"BECOMING A TLA WAS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF MYSELF, MY STUDENTS, AND THE TEACHERS AT MY SCHOOL."**

Crochet was looking for opportunities to be a leader that would afford her the ability to remain in the classroom.

"I love mentoring new teachers on curriculum, standards, and meeting the needs of our students," said Crochet. "I've noticed that administrators don't get to do those things as often as they'd like. It's better for me to stay in the classroom and take on a different type of leadership role because I'm afforded more opportunities in the trenches with teachers than I ever would as an administrator outside of the classroom."

Crochet currently teaches Intensive Algebra. She volunteered to teach this course because of her desire to support struggling students and to take them to the next level. She credits her role as a TLA with assisting her to prepare lessons for her classroom and to support other teachers as they prepare lessons for their own classrooms.

"Since becoming a TLA, I dive deeper into the standards. I am much better versed in math standards now," said Crochet. "Preparing my lessons takes up less of my time and allows me to help teachers in my building. If they have a question, I can point them directly to specific standards almost instantaneously."

While she admits that becoming a TLA can seem overwhelming initially, Crochet feels this work is worthwhile and gives her much-needed insight into her students that she wouldn't otherwise have.

"Last year, I reviewed the TLA application and found that it was the most meticulous application I've ever completed," said Crochet. "The application was proof to me that becoming a TLA is rigorous and only the highest quality of educators would be chosen simply because the requirements to even apply are so great."

Crochet recounts deconstructing standards from start to finish during the TLA application process and throughout her role as a TLA. Being a self-proclaimed "math nerd," this is fun for her. She enjoys being able to look at curriculum and standards and see the progression through grade levels.

In her experience, being a TLA makes planning much more efficient and has allowed her to grow as an educator through pointed and effective professional development. It has expanded her network beyond her hallway and school system, and she appreciates having a sneak peek into the newest and highest quality state-approved materials. Crochet plans on continuing her role as a TLA in the future and encourages others with an interest in their content area to learn more about becoming a TLA.

"In general, the biggest and best thing is that I get to work with other passionate educators from around the state and interact with them. This collaboration allows us to gel as a team and reach out to each other at any time with questions, thus eliciting growth," said Crochet.

AMY CROCHET
HAHNVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
ST. CHARLES PARISH

CROCHET'S TOP TIPS FOR ASPIRING TLAs

Don't let the application overwhelm you.
It is worth your time to go into detail and study the standards. It makes you even more qualified to do the job once you get it.

Go for it without hesitation.
Through this process, you are able to meet many different people. It broadens your horizons and enables you to see the bigger picture.

Have a passion for learning and teaching others.
Have a passion for your content area and a desire to learn as much as you can about it. It will stretch your thinking.

The Louisiana Department of Education is searching for highly-motivated educators who want to impact the next wave of instructional resources.

Interested in applying? Visit the Teacher Leader webpage to learn more.