

Stacie Zanzucchi

Coconino High School

2016 Rodel Exemplary Principal

Making data-driven decisions

“ At CHS we have a unique approach to looking at and using data. Our Data Leadership Team, comprised of teachers, counselors, administrators, our school psychologist, and intervention specialists use student achievement data, as well as achievement-related data (behavior, attendance, discipline, course enrollment patterns, etcetera) to inform the decision-making process at our school. In both Group Data Meetings and Individual Data Meetings we use this information to influence decisions school-wide level and at the classroom level. By regularly looking at holistic data we are collectively working to ensure that all students learn at high levels. Our data team also works with classroom teachers to become proficient in using classroom level data to plan for daily instruction, intervention and extensions in learning.

Bragging rights

“ The atmosphere and climate of our school is positive and prideful. Over the past several years we have worked to heal the wound created by the closure of one of three high schools in our community. Upon my arrival, teachers and students felt displaced, and although the school maintained some of its character and traditions from before the school closure, the hostility was palpable. School culture was fragmented and teacher morale was low. I am extremely proud to say our school is now one of collegiality, collaboration and camaraderie. It is warm and friendly and teachers are connected in a highly collaborative climate of trust and most importantly, students have regained a strong sense of connectedness and pride.

A tip for new principals

“ Remember that people are the heart of a school. People and high-quality relationships have to come first, structures and procedures will follow. Be careful with the control aspect in the position of leadership. Listen respectfully and intentionally to faculty, staff, and students; every member of your school community has something to contribute. Invite feedback as you develop your vision together and find the balance to maintain discipline and commitment to your vision and plan. And, most importantly find joy in the journey!



Stacie Zanzucchi

Coconino High School
Flagstaff Unified District

1,500 students in grades 9-12

Experience: 22 years in education including 12 years as a classroom teacher, five years as an elementary school principal and five years as high school principal; previously served on the Arizona English as a Second Language task force and on the 84th Arizona Town Hall "Pre K-12 Education: Choices for Arizona's Future"

Degrees: B.S. in Education from Northern Arizona University; M.A. in Bilingual Multi-Cultural Education from Northern Arizona University; Post graduate certification in Education Administration from the University of Phoenix

Rodel, in partnership with Social Venture Partners Arizona, developed the Rodel Exemplary Principal Initiative to recognize outstanding school principals and populate a pipeline of highly skilled school leaders for Arizona's most challenging schools.

The Rodel Exemplary Principals are selected for their demonstrated ability to lead high-need schools to success by inspiring their staffs to develop a campus that is high achieving, safe, orderly and welcoming.

Each cohort of Exemplary Principals provides professional development, field experience and mentorship to a class of Rodel Aspiring Principals. After learning from the best, Rodel Aspiring Principals are better prepared to lead their own high-need schools.