Matthew Jackson (Seminole Nation of Oklahoma) is an extraordinary teacher in Norman Public Schools. He is very passionate about leadership that results in real meaning and value of the human person, and more specifically, for Native people. Mr. Jackson is a very accomplished individual, professionally and personally. He teaches a new course called Introduction to Ethnic Studies at both high schools in Norman, Oklahoma. Not only a teacher, Matt Jackson is a mentor and leader among his colleagues, but most importantly, he is a role model and advocate for American Indian students and families in our community.

Mr. Jackson as a leader. Over the years, he has taught Oklahoma History, U.S. History, World History, Human Geography, AP US History, AP European History, Fundamentals of High School Literacy, and American Government. He has been assigned numerous student interns, future teachers from the University of Oklahoma College of Education who had the opportunity to observe and learn from his model teaching. Among his colleagues, he has led trainings for district teachers, led summer institutes, and worked on district benchmark committees. Recently, he was recognized for a Social Studies Educator Award in the district. For several years, Mr. Jackson has served as a national College Board Reader for the AP US History Free Response questions which determines a students' score on the AP US History test. At the state level, Mr. Jackson helped the Oklahoma State Department of Education write the Oklahoma Social Studies Curriculum Framework, providing Oklahoma teachers with resources and lesson plans on the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies.

High School students taking his classes share unique stories of their experiences. For example, this summer, he taught an Oklahoma History credit recovery course. For two weeks, every day he took his class to visit and experience Oklahoma's history by visiting and learning at Oklahoma's landmarks across the state - the OKC Memorial Museum, The Maryland Mansion, Roman Nose State Park, Chickasaw Cultural Center, The Pioneer Woman Statue, Cherokee Trading Post, and the Center of the Universe during Tulsa's Juneteenth Celebration to name a few. He made learning Oklahoma's History this summer fun, innovating and a memorable experience for his class.

Because of his passion, advocacy, and his role model and leadership qualities, students love him. One of his students recently commented during their final ride home. He said, "This has been a good trip. I think we're all going to be friends forever. Like I don't think we'll ever forget this experience. Because it's a good memory. You remember the good memories and not the bad ones. This is a good memory so we will always remember it. I think we'll always cherish these moments and what we've learned. We've learned about the ways and the people and the places of Oklahoma, things you never would have expected. What I think is ... I think we are all family.”