

# Meredith Aby-Keirstead

## EDUCATION

University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis, MN, Certificate in Gifted and Talented Education, 2016

College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, MN, MA Curriculum and Instruction, 2008

Thesis: Multicultural Education in the Suburbs: Increasing Minority Student Inclusion in Predominantly White High Schools

Macalester College, St. Paul, MN, Social studies licensure 7-12, 1996

Macalester College, St. Paul, MN, BA, 1995

History major, Spanish and Women's Studies core concentrations

Honors thesis: The Construction of Gender within the United Farm Workers

Graduated *Cum Laude* with Honors

Center for Global Education, Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN, Study Abroad Program, 1993

Cuernavaca, México: Women and Development – Latin American Perspectives

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2017 - present, Dept of Gifted Programs and Services, Bloomington Public Schools, Bloomington, MN  
*Gifted and Talented Coordinator*

- Coordinate Dimensions Academy High School (early college STEM program at Normandale Community College for profoundly gifted 9th and 10th graders)
- Support Nobel Humanities program for creatively gifted students at Kennedy High School
- Develop and implement humanities program for academically gifted students
- Support gifted students and their teachers at both high schools

2014 – 2016, Dept of Gifted Programs and Services, Bloomington Public Schools, Bloomington, MN  
*Teacher on Special Assignment*

- Coordinate Dimensions Academy High School
- Train teachers and write creativity curriculum for Nobel program at Valley View Middle School

2012 – 2016, Thomas Jefferson High School, Bloomington, MN

*Gifted and talented coordinator*

- Present to parents about the school's AP and honors programming
- Academic advising to GT students and their families
- Coordinate awards to high achieving students
- Represent GT department at IEP meetings of twice exceptional students
- Help staff with differentiation strategies
- Place students in 9th grade honors classes

1998 – 2014, 2015 - 2016, Thomas Jefferson High School, Bloomington, MN

*Social studies teacher*

- Courses included: AP US Government and Politics, AP Comparative Government and Politics, Social Studies 9 (honors and regular), Philosophy, World History, Practical Law

1997–98, Olson Middle School, Bloomington, MN

*Social studies teacher*

1996-97, Hazel Park Middle School, St. Paul, MN

*Long call reserve substitute Spanish and social studies teacher*

**PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP:**

Presenter, Teaching Profoundly Gifted 9th & 10th Graders in Community College, Academic & Student Affairs Leadership Conference- 2016

Presenter, Nobel: Where Art and Adolescence Meet - A Humanities Approach to Talent Development, National Association for Gifted Children Conference- 2014

AP Reader for the U.S. Government & Politics Exam, College Board- 2008, 2014, 2016

Presenter, Using Blogs in the Social Studies Classroom, MN Council for the Social Studies Conference- 2008

Reviewer, *Civics in Practice*, Holt, Rinehart and Winston- 2006

**CONTINUING EDUCATION:**

Hormel Foundation Gifted and Talented Symposium, 2017

National Association of Gifted Children Annual Convention, 2014, 2016

Finding Underserved Learners for Gifted and Talented Programs, 2016

Putting the Innovation in STEM: Creating Opportunities for Making and Collaboration Among High Ability Learners, 2015

Asynchronous Gifted Children: Teaching Those with 2E and Executive Functioning Issues, 2014

Be Practical: Finding and Developing Gifts and Talents, University of St. Thomas conference, 2014

Thinking Maps training, 2014

Increase Engagement Through Absent Narratives, MN Humanities Center, 2014

Differentiation: Instructional Models & Strategies in Gifted Education, Hamline University, 2014

Who are the Gifted, Hamline University, 2014

Mattos PRTI training, 2010, 2011, 2014

Opening Access & Retaining Diverse Students in Advanced Programs, 2011

AP Workshop, Carleton College, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2016

AP Workshop, University of MN, 2007, 2008, 2012, 2015, 2016

AP Workshop, Augsburg College, 2005

College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, MN, Courses in Inclusive Curriculum, 2000, 2005

Florida Alliance for Geography, Stetson University, Physical and Cultural Geography of Russia, 1998

**INTERESTS:** Peace and anti-racism activism, science fiction, salsa dancing, and reading with my daughter