

Teacher of the Year

“Education is the key to success in life, and teachers make a lasting impact in the lives of their students.” This quote by Solomon Ortiz gives an accurate description of who Kim Usery is. She has not only inspired me, but has changed my life; as well as the lives of other students. She truly deserves to be honored as the High School Teacher of the Year for all the hard work and effort she gives her profession.

A teacher, who is passionate for learning, inspires each student to realize their full potential. A person can enter Mrs. Usery’s classroom and watch her teach for five minutes and immediately understand her love for chemistry, and her ability to engage students in learning. Chemistry has difficult concepts to understand, but Mrs. Usery takes time to schedule and conduct review sessions. She explains the material to individual students, regardless of the time required for each student to master the concept. She plans and monitors fun labs which measure the process and reactions of chemistry relevant to life. From blowing up gummy bears to seeing how a chemical reacts with another chemical, Mrs. Usery does it all! Her passion for chemistry has rubbed off on me, and I want to become a chemistry major. Everyday, I and many other students look forward to attending her class.

Strangely enough, I signed up for chemistry as a curriculum requirement, and wasn’t looking forward to it. That changed drastically in the first week. Mrs. Usery has a fun and bubbly personality, which soon made me love being in class. After a short time, Mrs. Usery became my favorite teacher and mentor. When I go to her with an academic or a personal problem, she goes of her way to guide me in solving it. Academically, she challenges me to strive for the best. She believes in me and wants me to succeed. She is the first person I go to when I want confirmation of a solution or a decision.

Kim Usery has inspired not only me, but other people as well. The following comments are from her students: “She is funny and helps out with anything I need help with! She has inspired me to follow my dreams and keep trying at anything I want to do” - Taryn Phares. “I love how happy she is all the time. She always tries to make learning fun instead of just lecturing” - Morgan Boroughs. “She has inspired me to not give up. She never gives up on a student.”- Jordyn Hensley. “She is never afraid to help one on one with somebody. She is fun to be around and cares about our futures!” - Ashley Thrift. These are just a few students that Mrs. Usery has inspired. Kim Usery deserves Teacher of the Year because she has influenced and touched so many lives. Kim Usery cares about the future of her students.