

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Linnet Early, president of the Missouri Council for the Social Studies (MCSS) and chair of the Notable Social Studies Trade Books Committee, has been a classroom teacher for 18 years. She teaches middle school U.S. History, World Geography, and is a Social Emotional Behavior interventionist.

Q. Why did you become a teacher?

A. I loved my fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Jawarski. She read books to us like *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor and from that moment on I wanted to be a teacher. In eighth grade, I fell in love with U.S. history because my teacher, Mrs. Moore, made the class so interesting.

Q. What teaching success or career achievement are you most proud of?

A. I got a master's in curriculum and instruction in 10 months during the height of the pandemic. I worked full time and am a single mom to two boys. But I had extra time due to teaching virtually that year. I have since gone back to school to get a doctorate.

Q. When and why did you join NCSS?

A. I first heard of NCSS in 2005 and was a member off and on over the years. I didn't always go to the conferences because it was difficult to travel when my kids were little. I started to see great benefit in 2021 as states like Missouri pushed back against the George Floyd protests and started banning diversity [issues] in U.S. history classes. I appreciated being a part of an



Linnet Early presents a Notable Social Studies Trade Book at NCSS in 2023.

organization that pushed back on these bans. I also love how intentional the conference planning committee is at picking keynote speakers. Last year, I gushed over Hasan Jeffries, Matthew McKay, and Heather McGee. This year I loved hearing Carol Anderson and Isabel Wilkerson. Hearing these speakers alone makes membership worth it.

Q. How has being a part of a professional association like NCSS enriched your career?

A. I love the support I get as the president of a state affiliated council. I also love all the summer learning that's offered and all the chances to be a leader. As a classroom teacher and interventionist, I don't get a ton of leadership chances. But at NCSS, I can volunteer for all kinds of things and even run for offices. It's like student council for history nerds. You learn a lot and meet some wonderful people.

My school district has always been supportive of me being president of MCSS, but having this position has allowed me to write state curriculum, serve on various NCSS boards and present at the NCSS annual conference. I have had so many opportunities to improve my practice as a history educator. 🌟



Middle School Teachers, we want to hear from you! Tell us how you teach your favorite lesson. Is it about Reconstruction? The Spanish-American War? The Silk Road? Share your approach with other teachers. Submit an article to *Middle Level Learning* at www.editorialmanager.com/ncssjournals.

MIDDLE LEVEL LEARNING

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