

NC DPI
Teacher Spotlight – Scott Hendricks

Hendricks: Scott Hendricks, Southern Nash High School

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Hendricks: My name is Scott Hendricks. I'm a social studies teacher at Southern Nash High School in Bailey, North Carolina. I was—had the opportunity to work with the Governor's Teacher Network over the past year in creating some instructional units for the American History II curriculum. Those units are going to be uploaded onto Schoolnet. I'm glad to have a few minutes to be able to talk a little bit about them with you, and how I think they'll be an advantage for teachers across the state.

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Hendricks: I wrote two instructional units for American History II. The first one had to do with the Great Depression and the New Deal. What my focus was with that was to try to look at what the role of the government is in—as far as the economy and social problems go.

The second unit that I worked on had to do with World War II. And I pretty much took the same tack as far as trying to make it relevant. Obviously we're looking still at causes and effects, but I wanted to do a comparison with our current War on Terror.

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Hendricks: Each of the two instructional units that I've created as well as the others that other teachers have done in the Governor's Teacher Network — the advantage of

having it in Schoolnet — is that you get to do the whole picture, you can do the, you can teach it as a whole unit, or it can be broken down into individual pieces. You'll have an entire instructional unit. But those instructional units have also been broken down into performance tasks [ph], learning experiences, and also you can just have access to specific resources within Schoolnet.

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Hendricks: I think that the greatest thing about Schoolnet and especially with these lessons being stored in the Governor's Teacher Network, to use a construction term, they really are turn key. And what I mean by that is that literally everything you need to teach a unit is inside—is in Schoolnet. You know, if you want to do the entire unit you'd have everything. You've got two weeks worth of instruction there with the concepts; you've got the essential standards that are there. You know exactly what content you need to teach as well as the concepts.

Also, too, if there's just an individual piece that you want to pull out—you may not have time to do the whole two weeks, or maybe you've got some—you've got some good quality material of your own, but you want to just incorporate a piece of it in there. You can do a search. You can do a search of each section. And you can pick out the things that you want. So that—it's really almost *à la Carte* in a way as far as the options that you've got of how you want to use it. And it's really easy to find. It's very user-friendly in looking up materials [ph].

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Hendricks: I think that Schoolnet is a great resource for teachers in North Carolina. It's a great resource as far as looking for lessons, strategies. The advantage of the Governor's Teacher Network is that these lessons have been vetted and they're aligned to the North Carolina Essential Standards. In addition to the regular tasks, there are strategies for remediation; there are strategies for enrichment for more advanced students. It—each assignment and activity in the units touches all levels of the Revised Bloom's Taxonomy. There are differentiated assignments based on particular learning styles of students. Also, too, the assignments are geared towards being able to meet the needs of our ESL students also. So really everything—there is something for every student within these lessons and units on Schoolnet.

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Hendricks: There are so many things that teachers have access to nowadays as far as ideas for strategies, differentiation, lesson plans. The nice thing about Schoolnet is that it is a one stop place where you know that you can get good material that is aligned to the North Carolina standards, that there is a lot to choose from that can meet the—meet the needs of a lot of different students. And you just don't have to go surfing all over the Internet to find what it is you're looking for. You know, it's great. You can create your own material and just store it there. It's there whenever and wherever you need it.

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