

*WFIRM -- Integrating Regenerative Medicine into the High School Classroom*

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Ever since I was a little girl I have always wanted to know how things worked or why things happened, I spent lots of time outside exploring. When I was married I moved to North Carolina and became a Biology teacher and athletic trainer at Orange High School, giving me my first opportunity to teach High school. I am certified to teach Physical Education, Health and Science, grades 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. But science was the perfect fit! Today, a full 28 years later, I am still teaching science and remain amazed at how things work and how much fun it is to teach science to high school students.

It is humbling how rapidly science is changing and the opportunity at WFIRM is such an incredible experience. With budget cuts in education it is so difficult for teachers to keep current in their fields. Without these wonderful opportunities, it would be impossible to stay current. The labs are amazing and the equipment is top notch, but it's the people at WFIRM that make it special. They are brilliant educators and it struck me as truly remarkable and impressive with regards to how they took me into their labs, taking many hours to answer my numerous questions as I was able to witness the process of their brilliant ideas being brought to fruition. They are truly an amazing group and I am so blessed to be allowed the opportunity to work with them.

Collaboration and teamwork are a constant theme that runs through WFIRM. I have been so impressed how everyone works together to share ideas and collaborate. The open lab areas and shared equipment make such a wonderful place for ideas to grow and expand. The lessons of bioengineering, collaborations and teamwork that I have learned at WFIRM will be carried back to my students and fellow teachers and impact them for many years to come.

