

2006 HONOREE

David L. Buncher

Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School, Miami, FL
High School Science Education • 9th-12th Grade



Years Teaching: 25

Average Class Size: 30

Classes Taught Per Day: 3

School's % of ESL Students: 15%

School Type: Public, Inner-City

Type of Class: Self-contained

"I believe that all children can learn and that they can learn together given opportunity, tools, and stimuli. I regularly use technology in my classroom, providing real-world, positive learning experiences for my students who are sometimes hesitant to learn scientific principles. The experience I deliver with technology offers them the opportunity to explore, measure, and learn from the environment with which the students are familiar. My mission is to provide maximum opportunities for all students to learn, no matter where the learning occurs. I believe that students benefit from a combination of classroom academics and community service projects. A compulsory component of my curriculum requires my students and me to collaborate with our community throughout the year. Students present the highlights of their experiences to the class twice each year. Classroom activities are structured around real-life situations and activities in which math and science can be applied. I encourage both individual and collaborative problem-solving. In addition, meaningful service learning outside the classroom incorporates teaching of skills that cannot be learned in the class."

"My students received a \$10,000 grant from Toyota to invent a solar-powered, robotic boat that was directed by remote control into areas of our local waterways that are too dangerous to reach by manned boats. Once reaching its destination, the robotic boat took water



samples, tested the water at the site, and transmitted the pertinent data immediately via radio signals to the shore, where students monitored the information and commands. My students also received a \$10,000 grant from Lemelson-MIT to create a microgenerator fuel cell that is continually recharged by kinetic energy of a human body in motion. I have learned that when I hold my students to a high standard, they deliver excellence."

"Rare is the most applicable adjective to describe Dr. Buncher, who has not only served as an incredible instructor to my peers and me, but was also a mentor, a resource, and a role model. He sets out to instruct and encourage bright young minds from all backgrounds, challenging all to perform to the best of their abilities; a goal he has always met. Dr. Buncher's passion and acuity for teaching have made my experience with him the most productive educational years of my life. I gained from him the passion to learn that has grown since our time together in the classroom."

— former student

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (Florida Finalist, 2006) • Radio Shack National Teacher Award (2004) • Milken Educator Award (2003)