A native Austinite, Sharon graduated from Baylor University. She is an educational consultant and former high school English teacher in Georgetown ISD and Social Studies teacher in Austin ISD. Sharon was selected as Teacher of the Year at Georgetown High School and awarded the Favorite Sophomore teacher and the Excellence in Teaching Award by the Senior Recipients of the Academic Excellence Award.

Sharon is the co-author of "Writing in Color with Character: The Process that Works!" and author of two genealogy project books. She believes that all students can learn; teachers must engage students and provide the critical thinking tools for student success.

She designed the Austin Community College Teacher Certification program in 2002 and is currently assisting cohort members as teachers for Austin area schools. She is active in the Higher Education Collaborative at UT, the Advisory Committee for the State Board for Educator Certification, and the Texas Community College Consortium for Teacher Education Programs.

Teachers need tools and the "how" of teaching students. Using today's technology, we can effectively learn new strategies to see it, smell it, and use it.

Sources at our fingertips need to include best practices, based on research and data.

- Study the recommended source and allow time to dig deeper.
- Watch videos for ways to incorporate new strategies and anticipate a myriad of responses.
- Reflect, guided by strategies that will help focus on the task at hand.
- Scaffold activities to allow review, relevance to other topics, and a stronger understanding of the material.
- Learn skills to breed empowerment and holistic understanding.
- Model how it looks, what it sounds like, and why we study it.
- Focus on the objective, expectations, and engaging higher critical thinking activities.
- Assess, assess, assess so that we know what we are learning, how well we understand and remember.
The University of Texas at Austin teams with the Texas Education Agency on multiple topics and training. These resources are available for everyone, at no cost, and uses scientifically and research-based processes that work for all students.

**Searchlight**

http://searchlight.utexas.org (will become www.ReadSource.com in late fall 2009). Includes classroom resources, professional development, videos and activities, forms and tips. Resources come from several sources:

- K-4 Online Texas Teaching Reading Academies; K-3 Texas Teaching Reading Academy Study Guides; SERP (Special Education Reading Project) Elementary and Secondary Online Institute; Supplemental Instruction for Struggling Readers, Grade 3; Essential Reading Strategies for the Struggling Reader; Reading Strategies and Activities Resource Book for Students at Risk for Reading Difficulties; Meeting the Needs of Struggling Readers: A Resource for Secondary English Language Arts Teachers; and Effective Instructional Practices.

**Response to Intervention**

http://buildingrti.utexas.org

The Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk partners with TEA to offer project activities for Building Capacity for RTI in Texas Schools with a focus on Early Reading and Math. Topics include: Building and Sustaining 3-Tier Response to Intervention Models; RTI in Middle and High Schools; Spanish Centers for Reading, K-3; Using Student Achievement Data to Support Instructional Decision-Making. Access presentations, tools and resources, and assistance for parents.

**Look what I found!** Using the best resources for teaching reading skills across the curriculum.

ACC’s Teacher Certification Program offers specific training for new teacher candidates through Tutors with Vision. Candidates meet with a facilitator, Abel Villamea, and tutor students using data that drives instruction and produces results for students in elementary, middle school, and high schools in the Austin area.

**Standards for Ensuring Student Success from Kindergarten to College and Career—English and Spanish Language Arts and Reading**

https://www.englishspanishteks.net

Includes resources for teachers, trainers, and administrators for professional development for:

- English and Spanish Language Arts and Reading TEKS;
- English Language Proficiency Standards; and College and Career Readiness Standards.

Another venture between UT, TEA, and the Meadows Foundation.

**RESULTS!**

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