

Caroline Bare

The 2018 Dr. Judy Flythe Teacher Leader Award recipient is Ms. Caroline Bare, a social studies teacher at Hanover High School.

Caroline epitomizes the true nature of teacher leadership. While exemplary teaching practice is a prerequisite to being a teacher leader, excellent teaching, alone, is not sufficient. We all know excellent teachers who are credible, but who prefer to work as individuals rather than in collaboration with others. The ability to build positive interpersonal relationships is critical to becoming an effective teacher leader—and as Caroline’s principal attests, “she does this in the most humble manner possible which makes her all the more relatable and effective.”

Whether it is facilitating professional development for her colleagues and cross-curricular lessons on topics such as human rights and child trafficking or creating a Professional Learning Community to improve student writing or working with an English colleague to improve her own and her student’s public speaking skills and with a special education colleague to improve SOL scores in her collaborative history class, Caroline’s passion for continuous improvement and collaboration with colleagues has positively impacted her school and her community. Her solution-based approach to challenges led to her principal to ask her to lead the Principal’s Advisory Council at Hanover High this year to facilitate productive, open dialogue among faculty and administration.

Caroline also serves on the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Teacher Advisory Council and as VCU Clinical Faculty, helping to prepare the next generation of teachers—and for tonight’s audience it’s especially important to mention that she is currently a National Board candidate!

Characteristically, Caroline plans to use the Judy Flythe award to take a team of teachers to Longwood University to attend a workshop designed to promote tolerance through discussion and understanding.