

## 2018 Educator of the Year Nomination

1. Brian Unfried
2. Abraxas Academy – Morgantown
3. 6 years
4. Science Teacher
5. Mr. Unfried exhibits every quality that an educator would like to possess because of his passion for learning and genuineness for student achievement. He has helped create the Shelter Education program to have high standards for all teachers in our Abraxas Academy facility in regards to how a classroom should be run and student engagement should look in the learning environment. He has created an environment where students are excited to go to class and participate because of the creative lessons that are brought each and every class period. He uses a variety of learning strategies to keep students actively curious as to how they are going to learn the material. Mr. Unfried also excels at being able to connect to a wide range of learning types and styles. He makes a conscious effort to talk with every student throughout the course of a class period to ensure that they are actively learning the material being covered. If there is uncertainty of any kind, Mr. Unfried will go above and beyond to ensure that clarity is brought to the subject. He often uses hands-on experiments to help students have a better understanding of the information that is being presented. Hands-on learning is something that Mr. Unfried excels at because of his recognition that the students that in our environment tend to learn best that way. Many of the students who attend our school, did not attend normal programming outside of our facility. They enjoy an active environment, and Mr. Unfried does a great job at creating that type of class setting for the students where learning can occur. Mr Unfried has done a number of experiments and projects with students that involve much creativity and participation for them to be successful. One example of a project that takes place is when Mr. Unfried does a unit about our solar system. He has students complete a project about a planet of their choice which will include either a pamphlet or poster, and then have the student make a replica of their planet for a solar system display. Another project that is done has the students study an era of time and the animals that are involved in that time-period. Then once the students understand the types of animals that existed during that time, they are to complete a presentation about an animal that they created. There is specific information that must be given about their animal as well as a description with visual-aides. A few other projects/experiments that have been completed include model rockets, flight projection, waves, acceleration, water displacement, chemical reactions, static electricity, light, sound, and using telescopes and microscopes. Mr. Unfried comes to each school day with a positive attitude and a sole focus of helping the student learn something new. He is always encouraging questions and will always seek to find an answer that he is unsure about. He genuinely cares about the well-being of his students and it is evident by the amount of time he spends preparing himself for each class session. He is always prepared and will often take individual time to help a student after class or school to help them either get caught up on work or to create understanding of a topic. He will check in with students before, during, and after school to see how they are doing and if there is anything he can help them with. He is the ideal teacher for an alternative education setting because of his willingness to help and persistence to make students better. The students can sense that from him which helps create an inviting learning environment that students enjoy and look forward to. Mr. Unfried meets all requirements and goes above and beyond what the expectations for someone worthy of an Educator of the Year award would do.
6. Travis Thome
7. Shelter Education Supervisor
8. 610-913-8000 ext 230