



2014-2015
Dr. Earl Reum
Kansas Advisor of the Year
Melinda Cross
Hays High School – Hays, KS

Melinda Cross has been a Foreign Language teacher and Student Council Advisor at Hays High School in Hays, Kansas, for the last fifteen years, after spending ten years at Russell High School in the same capacity.

Under her direction, the Hays High School Student Council hosts two community blood drives annually, participates in the Trick-or-Treat So Others Can Eat project, joined the state-wide SAFE-Seatbelts Are for Everyone program, and recognizes the achievements of the student body during Homecoming events.

Hays High School's Student Council President Amber Klaus says, "Mrs. Cross is a very caring person who takes an interest in our daily concerns. She is passionate about leadership and what her students gain from it. She has always shown compassion and has been attentive to the needs of students who would benefit from social interaction but are too shy to interact with others."

Melinda has served as a senior counselor for the KSHSAA Summer Student Council Leadership Workshop for 20 years and has been a host site for the KSHSAA Regional Conference.

Mrs. Cross' Principal Martin Straub stated, "She is a detailed-oriented person who knows what needs to be done, identifies necessary resources, organizes it and sees the happening through to a successful completion. Student reflection after major efforts and the willingness to make adjustments to improve demonstrate her openness to change. Each year, the HHS Student Council plays a vital role in developing a culture of involvement for all students, not just a select few who might win election. Mrs. Cross implemented a system of 'open involvement' for all students."

When asked about her work as a student council advisor, Melinda said, "My work with student council has been a true gift and highlight of my career in education. It has afforded me numerous opportunities to work with great students and colleagues that mean the world to me. I treasure the many years of working with and learning from Dr. Earl Reum, who embodied what a student council advisor should be."

