

Harlan Kredit

Lynden Christian High School, Lynden, WA

High School Science Education

10th-12th Grade Science & Biology



2005 Honorees



“My teaching method in my classroom, or outside working on projects, is based on a team investigative approach: my favorite question is ‘why’? Student leaders are assigned for each activity and they

rotate constantly so everyone has a chance to be the person in charge. I believe it is essential to teach practical leadership skills by making the leaders accountable for the success or failure of their group’s work. We try to do the best science we can by making sure that our goals are clearly defined and our experiments, investigations, and projects are accurately documented and carefully analyzed. We have received many grants and awards for our work and are being asked to do far more than we possibly can, so we choose carefully only those activities that will enhance the science goals of our curriculum. My goal each year is to challenge every class with a special project, which due to their effort becomes something they own - that is the “hook” I use to engage them. It also becomes a means of giving something back to the community, both now and in the future. Using the outdoors as a major part of my teaching focus, blends with the interests of the students, is real science, and the excitement of the students has validated that approach.”

– Harlan Kredit

“Clearly Harlan’s greatest

contribution has been his leadership in salmon enhancement projects on the Fishtrap Creek which runs through the Lynden Christian School property. For 30 years, Harlan has channeled student interest and creativity into this creek, which runs from urban areas in Canada, south through suburban and agricultural areas in the U.S. (including the farm I grew up on), and ultimately into the Puget Sound. Under Harlan’s tutelage, students – including ‘farm kids’ like me (and now my daughter) living on the Fishtrap and its tributaries, and ‘town kids’ who fish the stream as it runs through the city park – learn principles of water quality and stream biology. His students have mapped miles of the stream, built and maintain a fish hatchery on school property, and work on tree-planting and restoration projects along the stream.” – Karen Steensma, former student and parent of a current student



Other Highlights:

Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (2004)

Washington State Science Teacher of the Year (2004)

National Conservation Teacher of the Year (2004)

Calvin College Distinguished Alumni Award

Ranger, Yellowstone National Park

Teacher, American Wilderness Leadership School near Jackson, Wyoming

Member, National Science Teachers Association

Member, Washington State Science Teachers Association

Member, The Nature Conservancy

Years Teaching: 43

Average Class Size: 28

Classes Taught Per Day: 4

School’s Percent of ESL Students: 5

School Type: Private, Medium-Small City

Type of Class: Self-contained