

2011 Teacher of the Year Finalists



From Left to Right - Dana Berry, Tammy White, Bill Lewis, Donna Marshalko, and Amanda Crist

Bill Lewis

When I was in 11th grade, a teacher once told me that I would someday be in prison. I'm sure she didn't mean that I would someday be a teacher in one.

I grew up in a small town in Michigan, and ever since I can remember, construction has been a part of my life. My dad owned his own residential construction company and as a child, I used to go with him to his jobs and watch him work. As soon as I was able, I began to work with him.

As a child, I was ornery. As a teenager, I was rebellious. And as a student, I was the class clown who for some, was considered a teacher's nightmare. I was looking for some structure in my life, and I found it in 1994 when I was 19 years old and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

After my time in the Marine Corps, I spent the next 11 years working in the commercial construction industry, working my way up from an iron worker, to a foreman, to a superintendent. In 2004, while I was supervising the construction of a new infirmary building at the ORW, I learned that they were hiring teachers and I decided to apply.

I love teaching. The opportunities that I am able to provide for my students have proven to be life altering. I am proud of my program, and proud of its results. The partnerships that I have been able to forge with community resources are valuable to me and my students. I believe it is important to instill a good work ethic and I teach my students to stand behind their work, cooperate as a team and become valuable employees.

In my spare time, I love to travel and spend time with my wife and 3 young kids. I enjoy fishing, white water rafting, coaching soccer and doing side projects. I love air conditioning and hate the heat.