

# BEN

## SHORT

6TH GRADE SOCIAL  
STUDIES TEACHER  
& HIGH SCHOOL  
GIRLS BASKETBALL  
COACH



**Current Location:**

Sioux Falls, SD

**Graduation Year:** 2015

**Major:** Elementary Education

**Degree:** Bachelor of Science

**Employer:**

Sioux Falls School District

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UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTH DAKOTA**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

# ALUMNI CAREER SPOTLIGHT

## ASK THE ALUM

**Provide a brief job description. In your own words, what do you do on a daily basis?**

I plan, prepare and deliver lesson plans to middle school students. While doing this, I try to make learning exciting and fun so that my classroom is enjoyable and a place my learners look forward to coming to everyday.

**What skills are most important for you to be successful in your position?**

The ability to be flexible! As a teacher you always have your plans on what you are going to teach and do that day in class, but it's important to be flexible because your students might have questions from the day before, on current events or on personal interests they might have in their lives. Being able to tie all those things back into a productive lesson is key to being not only a good teacher but also showing that you care.

**What do you like best about your job?**

The kids! All the different personalities. Seeing their growth throughout the year is amazing. Making connections with each individual student really makes teaching fun and, quite honestly, my dream job.

**What is the most challenging part of your job?**

Also, the kids. I care so much about my learners, wanting them to be as successful as possible. I have learned those learners who are acting out, not doing their work or missing school usually have factors in their personal lives that are out of my control. Creating positive relationships and making my classroom a place where students feel safe to be themselves allows them to forget about what might be going on outside of school. This is always my goal.

**What is one piece of advice you would offer alumni looking to enter your career or industry?**

Remember it is always about the students. Make school enjoyable and fun, while at the same time creating a safe, positive atmosphere. Creating this environment will allow them to challenge themselves to become better learners.