This month’s IEI Featured Educator is a true inspiration, not only to his students, but his colleagues, administrators and those throughout the education community. Having attended four different high schools in four years, Skip Thibault, understands the value of a supportive and nurturing public school environment.

Receiving his BA in Government from Colby College and having led corporate training, Thibault shares, “I said for many years that if I had it all to do over again, I would have been a teacher.” At age 35 he did just that. Receiving his MAT in political science from Florida Atlantic University, Thibault currently teaches civics economics and world history as part of Northwood’s new freshmen experience program.

In his 15 year at Northwood High School in Chatham County, Thibault serves as the Social Studies Department Chair, Senior Class Advisor, Graduation Coordinator and Head JV Baseball Coach. Each spring, as many in the education community are looking to summer, Thibault’s life is consumed by the responsibilities that come with being the school’s graduation coordinator, including booking the venue, arranging staging and seating, parking, security, programs, photography, floral arrangements, student speakers and running rehearsals.

As the AVID coordinator for six years, Skip reflects on how he has had the opportunity to work with some amazing kids. Whether he is organizing commencement ceremonies for an entire class or single handedly helping a struggling man overcome his circumstances to graduate Greensboro College as recent as December 2013, Skip Thibault’s passion for his students and for education shines as bright as his smile.

Married to Melissa Thibault, Vice Chancellor for Distance Education and Extended Programs at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, Skip shares, “inspiration comes from my wife who works tirelessly for education in the state and who reminds me that we really do make a difference.”

“The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fired to be kindled.”

- Plutarch