**NORTH CAROLINA**  
**David Robinson**  
**Panther Creek High School**  
**Cary**  
**Years at School: 5**  
**Total Years Teaching: 26**  
**Students in Music Program: 215**

**Teaching Philosophy:**  
I spend the majority of my energy teaching my students to engage in their education. I look for ways that students can step up and become leaders. I teach my students that leadership involves giving. The success in my classroom comes from the idea that we all have to succeed for the group to succeed. We are only as strong as our weakest link. All students in the ensemble learn to care for everyone’s progress. I see my students as potential teacher/leaders. I ask them to teach each other in section rehearsals and to look for ways to elevate all of the musicians in their sections. When students think that “we-us” is more important than “I-me,” we will have students that go into the community looking to serve not be served.

**Making A Difference In Students’ Lives:**  
If we are fortunate, we will have three or four great teachers in our lives; teachers who were able to touch something down deep inside us and who really determined our thinking about everything. Perhaps they confirmed a certain belief pattern, or influenced the way we handled problems, or simply gave us the encouragement we needed to succeed. I was lucky to have two outstanding teachers help mentor me in my early years, Jesse Holton (band director) and Lisa McIver (choral director). I wanted to follow in their footsteps and use them as models in developing my own style of teaching.

**Most Important Lesson Learned:**  
My final thought would be that in both teaching and learning, you must remain persistent. Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser said it best: Engagement in one’s education and then sharing it with others offers an instruction manual of success. It must be constantly studied and practiced. One year in my class is certainly not going to transform anyone’s life-ingrained habits, nor should it. It is merely a taste of what is possible by shifting to a we/us community and striving for excellence.