

Rachel Miller
Crystal River High School, Citrus County
2023 NIE Teacher of the Year Runner-Up



“The Tampa Bay Times has allowed my students to have reliable, relevant material at the click of a button, to foster learning and gain knowledge that will further the careers of so many future doctors, nurses, dentists and more. Many of my students found this to be such a great resource that they plan to use it throughout college as well. This will allow them to stay up to date with the most recent health-related research and news.”

Rachel is an English Honors teacher for the Health Academy at Crystal River High School in Citrus County.

Rachel was chosen as a 2023 NIE Teacher of the Year Runner-Up for using the Tampa Bay Times to further the careers of our community’s future doctors, nurses, dentists, EMTs and veterinarians.

Rachel notes that the Tampa Bay Times has allowed her to “take learning to a whole new level through a current, local, real-world approach.”

She uses the Tampa Bay Times as an ongoing resource in her classroom so that her students can research health topics that are related to their communities and their future careers.

Most recently, students were given a rubric and asked to research a health-related article from tampabay.com. This was a week-long project which encouraged them to find information related to their future careers and how it would affect them.

This project fostered inquiry and required research. Students had to cite their sources, collaborate effectively within their groups, and finally present to the entire class through the use of technology. After their presentations, they were able to answer questions and engage in meaningful conversations related to their career paths and goals.

Rachel notes, “As an English Language Arts teacher, the newspaper relates to my class in every aspect possible, but the health portion is the best resource which I have found to encourage growth within my students' personal career choices. I am not only helping my students now, but I am also helping their futures as well. I am able to differentiate instruction based on career goals, and it all aligns to my curriculum and current standards.”