Lorri Defoor

Lorri Defoor received her Master in Teaching degree in 2009, and the Washington State Residency teaching certificate with endorsements in elementary education and middle level math/science. She received AmeriCorps tuition waivers covering a quarter of tuition both years in the MiT program. Since then, she has been an outstanding math teacher and mentor at North Thurston High School in Lacey, WA, a school whose population is 36% free/reduced lunch eligible and 42% population of students of color. Now endorsed in secondary math, she is also seeking national board certification.

Lorri spent 2006-2007 doing AmeriCorps service as a member of the Cispus Learning Center team in the rural, eastern portion of Lewis County, WA after finishing her B.A. in environmental studies and biology at Whitman College. As a tutor and mentor at White Pass Elementary School, Lorri found “in a community where poverty and lack of interest in education can be disabling to a school district, I have struggled to redirect my teaching strategies to the learning styles of the children with whom I work….The overwhelming feelings of joy, comfort, and challenge I derive from this work have led me to believe that teaching is the best possible career choice I could make.” Lorri further found that “Working with AmeriCorps has also taught me valuable lessons about community and the importance of service….It was a particularly telling experience when, after the floods this past November [2006] left so many of our residents without homes, I was able to work alongside both the superintendent of our school district and one of my second grade students as we cleaned out the water-logged homes of families in the area. I have never felt a greater sense of community, nor have I seen spirits lifted so high in a time of trial by the turnout of people who cared.”