

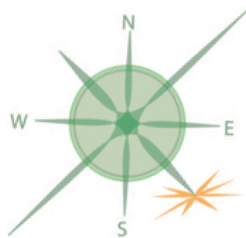
South East Education Cooperative

1305 9th Ave. S., Fargo, N.D. 58103 | (701) 446-3170 | www.ndseec.com

Closing One Door, Opening Others

South East Education Cooperative

By Haley Gabel, SEEC Communications Intern



Confucius, Chinese philosopher, once said, “Wherever you go, go with all your heart.”

Connie Molony, English Language Arts (ELA) Specialist at SEEC, says this is one of her favorite quotes, and when speaking of her career, you can tell that Molony definitely performs her job “with all of her heart.”

“I love learning, I love children, I’ve loved school at every level, and I believe how well we serve our students will determine the course of human events. Education is my calling.”

Molony graduated from Hamline University in 1973, where she majored in both Psychology and Elementary Education. After receiving her Bachelor’s Degree, she earned a Master’s Degree in K-12 Curriculum and Instruction from Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM).

Over these last 42+ years, Molony has gained Reading Recovery certification, middle-level endorsement, and Title 1 reading credential. She’s taught first graders in Forest Lake and Mankato, MN, sixth graders in West Fargo, and first graders and middle level kids in Fargo. As adjunct and continuing education instructor, Molony has also taught literacy courses at MSUM and North Dakota State University.

She was Fargo’s ELA Specialist from 2002-2007. She then returned to middle school to teach Read180 for five years before joining the SEEC as ELA Specialist in 2012, thanks to the Succeed 2020 grant.

The SEEC, Molony says, is an important education partner for districts.

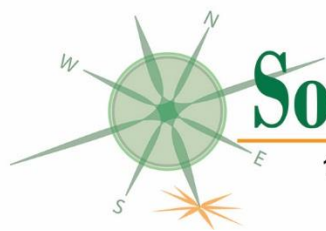
“There is strength in numbers; it’s a fact. Joining the SEEC allows districts to access considerably more opportunities and services than they may have accessed on their own. The seven other Regional Education Associations in the state work with us to develop mutually beneficial opportunities. Throughout all efforts, our purpose is to build strong relationships to better serve North Dakota students.”

In February, Molony announced that she would be retiring in June.

“I’m a new grandma, so my future will include spending more time with my family and friends, near and far. I plan to volunteer, travel, garden, and read for pure pleasure. And, just for the fun of it, I’m willing to tackle a few projects now and then at the SEEC.”

Molony’s favorite thing about working at the SEEC has been the fact that they “thrive on big ideas.”





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“All my co-workers are cut from the same cloth, that is, we share a drive to learn more, improve processes, serve our constituents, and exceed expectations.”

There is one piece of advice Molony has learned throughout her years that she wishes to share with other administrators and/or teachers:

“Much of what students need is apart from the standards and outside the curriculum, but as caring, inspiring, and skilled educators, we can model respect, empathy, integrity, dignity, service, and hope for the future. And smile...always smile. All students, whether age 5 or 65, deserve similar learning experiences.”