

MEET OUR TEACHERS

LEAD TEACHERS

Ms. Jamie Mott

San Francisco native Jamie Mott brings more than 9 years teaching experience to the Hartford Public Library Citizenship program. A graduate of University of California Santa Barbara, Jamie holds a BA in Art History and minored in Italian Cultural Studies/Linguistics. She holds a TESL Certification from Sonoma State and spent a year at the University of Bologna, Italy where she perfected her Italian.

Jamie loves teaching citizenship because she *“loves interacting with amazing personalities from around the world.”* In her spare time, Jamie is a human rights activist and is involved in promoting citizen’s rights at the local government level. *“I believe in equal rights for all people and I have come to realize that some people have to fight harder to claim those rights. It gives great meaning to me to be a small part of their journey towards citizenship and greater liberation.”*

Mrs. Joanne Spongberg

Born and raised in Connecticut, Joanne Spongberg graduated from Southern Connecticut State University with a BA in Spanish. She continued her studies and has a MA in Elementary Education. Joanne taught ESL in elementary schools before leaving to raise a family.

In 2001 Joanne began teaching ESL to adults on a part-time basis. She currently teaches ESL in the Hartford, Naugatuck, and Cheshire Adult Education programs.

She started teaching Citizenship at the Hartford Public Library in 2010. She says that it is *“very satisfying to help students prepare for Citizenship because they value the USA so much. They have such high regard for this country and want to become citizens so badly. It is an honor to help them achieve their goal.”*

TEACHERS

Timothy R. Clemens Jr.

Tim was born in Hartford and raised in West Hartford. He attended the University of Connecticut where he earned a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science with minors in History and Sociology. He is currently earning his Masters of Science in Educational Leadership at the University of New England. Tim has taught for the Hartford Public Schools as a Social Studies teacher for over a decade. For the last 6 years he has taught Civics at the middle school level.

Tim chose to teach citizenship as a tribute to the immigrants from his family who forged the way and allowed him so many opportunities for success in a truly wonderful country. Growing up he heard the stories about the signs in storefronts that greeted his Gaelic relatives stating, “No Irish Need Apply”. He believes that America is a land of immigrants and we must embrace each successive wave with open arms and genuinely welcome them into our communities. By helping a person become a citizen Tim feels we strengthen our nation and he is proud to be able to assist the people in our community to fulfill their dreams of US citizenship.

Mr. Dean Rhoden

Hartford resident Dean Rhoden was born in Kingston, Jamaica and is Program Coordinator of the Adult literacy Program at the Center for Urban Research Education and Training Inc. (CURET). A Citizenship Guide and instructor, Dean enjoys teaching; it has been a passion of his from a very young age.

Dean is also a scout leader for CURET Boy Scouts Troop 1443. His troop recently participated in the naturalization ceremony at the Hartford Public Library on April 29, 2011.

As a scoutmaster, he has interacted with people from over thirty different counties worldwide. He has been teaching good citizenship to children and adults alike and has empowered them to give service and to be educated about their community and country. Dean's mottos are: “*Education is the key to empowerment and time with each child is the best gift.*”