



MANCHESTER REGIONAL ACADEMY'S 2017 – 2018 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

SCOTT GOLDSMITH

MRA School Psychologist Scott Goldsmith is an innovator. When it comes to finding alternative solutions, he is masterful. Working in an alternative school, this virtue is exceedingly valuable. For Mr. Goldsmith uses his creative thinking skills to find ways to reach and connect with students who are all but inaccessible, who have cut ties with humanity and often are on a very destructive road. Mr. Goldsmith's tool kit is wide and deep. He is a nationally-renowned facilitator of adventure-based therapy, a skill that he brings to school and uses to engage students, teach skills, build self-confidence and create a sense of connection. He is also an accomplished musician, another skill that he brings to his practice working with at-risk youth. But his most valuable asset, the sharpest tool in his kit is his generosity of spirit--his ability to listen to students who struggle to communicate their needs. Mr. Goldsmith is able to speak the language of the angry, the withdrawn, the forgotten, the disaffected, the dispossessed and disconnected. And for his students, this the beginning of the footpath to the road back in. Mr. Scott Goldsmith is a most valuable member of the MRA community. It is my privilege to name him Manchester Regional Academy's 2018 Teacher of the Year.

~ DIRECTOR BRUCE THORNDIKE