



Miriam Education Resource Center, Inc.
1901 Peoria Street #105, Aurora, CO 80010
Grades: k-12
Director: Miriam Robinson

Miriam Education Resource Center (MERC) is a Hope Online Learning Center that was founded in 2007 to serve students in a neighborhood close to Colfax Avenue and Peoria Street in Aurora. Representative of their neighborhood, the 50 Hope Online students attending MERC are ethnically diverse. While some come from middle-class families, others have been challenged with homelessness. Still, all share a desire to obtain a quality education that will lay the foundation for future success.

“Students are drawn to Hope Online at MERC, not only because of the safe environment, but also because of the one-on-one attention and customized curriculum that promotes learning,” reports Ms. Robinson. Erin Smith, a Hope Online highly qualified teacher, develops an individual learning plan (ILP) for each Hope Online student at MERC according to their academic needs. The ILP allows each student the flexibility to work at their own pace and make progress.

In addition, students who enrolled with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) are improving their academic achievement levels by accessing Hope Online’s curriculum according to their specific individual needs, in collaboration with their Hope Online teacher, Learning Center mentors and a special education consultant. Their progress is monitored quarterly.

Ms. Robinson attributes this incredible progress to the work ethic of the students, and to the tremendous dedication and support demonstrated by the Hope Online and MERC staff. She affirms, “Both teachers and mentors are adored by students for their enthusiasm and patience. We foster the values of a family: trust, warmth, and support. Our students feel comfortable and safe at MERC and that comfort allows them to work confidently toward achieving their goals.”

“Our goal is to see each student succeed,” professes Ms. Robinson. “Hope Online recognizes that each student learns differently and needs varying levels of support and interaction to be successful in their studies. We believe in education and we believe in each student.”

Learning Center Administration

Miriam Robinson - Director and Lead Mentor

Miriam Robinson, a Registered Nurse, obtained a degree in Applied Sciences from the Community College of Denver. For over a decade, she has worked with children in a variety of capacities. Her experience has convinced her to be part of the solution for improving educational opportunities for at-risk youth.

Hope Online Teacher

Erin Smith – Hope Online Teacher

Erin Smith is an encouraging and enthusiastic Colorado licensed teacher who maintains a good rapport with her students. She has impressive knowledge of instructional procedures as well as the developmental stages of children. She is a testament to the success of online education as a graduate of Branson School Online. Ms. Smith attended Adams State College in Alamosa, CO, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Literacy. She is a May 2008 candidate for a Master of Arts in Teaching from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, AZ.