

Tom McGowan. For the past 2 years, Dr. Tom McGowan has chaired the Department of Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Tom is a co-PI on the Math in the Middle Institute Partnership where he chairs the Leadership Workshop component. He began his teaching career as a fourth grade classroom teacher in the Ralston (Nebraska) Public Schools. In 1983, he joined the elementary education faculty at Indiana State University, teaching undergraduate and graduate social studies courses and beginning ISU's initial efforts at comprehensive and collaborative improvement projects with Indiana schools. From 1988 to 2002, Dr. McGowan worked at Arizona State University, teaching in the areas of curriculum studies and K-8 social studies education and coordinating outreach projects with Arizona school districts, including an effort to prepare native educators for work in schools on the Navajo Nation. He also directed Exemplary Teachers for Arizona, a program intended to improve student achievement in schools state-wide by enhancing the competence of classroom teachers. His professional publications have examined the nature of school-university collaboration (particularly for the purpose of improving teacher performance) and effective social studies instruction (particularly through literature-based instruction). He has served as an officer of social studies professional organizations at the state and national levels and currently serves on the governing board of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).