



# The Pat Cooke Fund

Education Innovation Opportunity



I am currently in my 8th year at Codman Academy. In that time I have been the grade 10 Humanities teacher, teaching reading, writing, and early United States history and helping design and facilitate theater programming alongside our partners at The Huntington, Boston's historic theater company. I also lead an advisory, or "crew" (Dillard Crew). I have served on the Instructional Leadership Team and the School Culture Team, and I have been heavily involved in our school's ongoing restorative justice work. For many years, I served as the grade 10 team lead. In recent years I completed fellowships with TeachPlus, studying the recruitment and retention of teachers of color, and with the Massachusetts Historical Society, developing curriculum about abolition and collective action in Boston. I am currently a union representative.

Prior to my start at Codman in 2017, I taught high school English in Chicago, Illinois and Exeter, New Hampshire; worked and taught at residential summer programs at Duke University and St. Paul's School; and worked and taught in various educational settings at the pre-K, middle school, and college levels.

Since I was young, I have been aware of climate change. Like many, my understanding of the climate crisis has evolved as I have become more interested and engaged in politics. At Codman Academy, teaching American history has helped me gain a deeper appreciation of social justice and social change movements, including environmental activism. My teaching practice is deeply inspired by social change movements, and my goal is that students can go into the world confident that they have the tools to improve the world they are inheriting.

In my private life, environmentalism takes form in many small actions: composting, thrifting, boycotting online sellers, volunteering for the New England Aquarium. However, the biggest challenges—like climate change—require broader collective action. Powerful and determined individuals throughout U.S. history have used their influence to inspire collective action; my hope is that my project, "Narratives of Environmental Activism," will introduce students to leaders in the environmental justice movement and inspire students to take action themselves.