



Kevin Cordi as an Award-Winning Educator

In the Classroom

As a new teacher, Kevin discovered that stories could grab and maintain a student's attention in the classroom. From then on, he has not only been studying story, but using it in the classroom as an effective means of teaching. For eleven years, Kevin was most at home in the classroom where he was named, "the first full time high school storytelling teacher in the country." Each day he planned five to six separate storytelling lessons for his students working with students of ranges and abilities from special needs, to "at-risk" to honors. Clearly, he has created and implemented story curriculum for all needs.



Beyond the classroom, Kevin has also taught Storytelling at the college level at both California State University (nine years) and most recently at The Ohio State University. His master's degree focused on using story as a primary teaching tool. Kevin secured a PhD at The Ohio State University both teaching and studying how narrative can be used to teach many disciplines through story drama. He taught as an Assistant Professor, working with teachers at Ohio Dominican University in

Columbus, Ohio. In 2012 he was awarded "Outstanding Language Arts Teacher of the Year (College Division)" from the Ohio Council Teachers of English. He currently teaches using narrative and literacy strategies to guide his work serving as an Assistant Professor at Ohio Northern University.

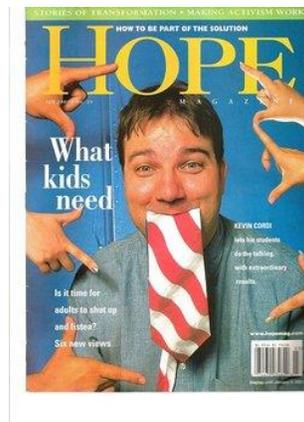
Kevin is also the founder and director of The StoryBox Project. This is a project that has been occurring since 1995 to present day. In 2009 he sent over 50 StoryBoxes all over the world. Every three weeks they arrive to a new place and stories fill up the StoryBoxes. You can find out more at www.storyboxproject.com



In 2001, Kevin was designated as a Fulbright Scholar. He was able to tell stories and conduct workshops internationally in both England and Japan developing cross-cultural curriculum, especially story based work. While in Japan, he was honored when he was selected to address the subject of cross-cultural learning for The Vice Minister of Education of Japan and his party which included the minister, delegates, teachers, and members of the Diet, (equal to the US Senate) mayors, and many more.

"While other people are now beginning to cultivate youth tellers, Kevin Cordi has had a successful and reputable youth troupe for years! He is the pioneer in learning about youth and applying his learning to young storytellers."

- **Donald Davis Professional Storyteller**



Kevin cares deeply about the connection between story and teaching starting the Y.E.S. (then Youth Storytelling) Special Interest Group for the National Storytelling Network. He is also the Co-founder of the Youth Tellabration! Movement sweeping the nation. His work is currently found at The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' website where he served as educational story consultant for their ARTSEdge program. He has served as the Executive Director for the National Youth Storytelling Showcase and is the founder of the Voices across America Youth Storytelling Project.

As a teacher that uses stories to motivate, guide, and persuade adults and youth to find their voice with story, Kevin has authored an award-winning book called **Raising Voices: Youth Storytelling Groups and Troupes**, co-authored with Judy Sima. The book, which has earned both the Storytelling World Award and the Anne Izard Storytellers Choice Award, chronicles his successful storytelling troupe of 11 years---

Voices of Illusion providing practical and proven advice to help children learn through story.



A New Way to Learn Together: Ensemble Storytelling

Ensemble Storytelling is a program designed by Kevin that enables children of all ages to be empowered by telling stories with other kids often on a public stage. Kevin draws from his masters in storytelling and education, his Ph.D work, as well as his experience as a full time storytelling teacher, both at high school and college levels, to create and implement storytelling connections that are student driven. He travels across the country providing instruction on story curriculum. From these unique experiences Kevin has designed methods to help boost a student's confidence and in a short time provide for the student the tools to not only perform on stage but to invite further storytelling connections in their lives. This ensemble teaching provides the much needed voice of kids and young adults a place on a storytelling stage to share their work.

Under Kevin's skillful mediation and coaching, students collaboratively create stories that incorporate their collective voices through ensemble storytelling. As an ensemble, they invest in the stories. Stories are not written down, but instead composed by the students. The direction of the story is not solely on telling, but instead on sharing the whole story. Each student invests in story contributing both physically and vocally. Both organic and planned story construction is encouraged and developed in each performance. Stories are not realized from scripts, but instead actualized together each time a tale is shared. You can find out more at www.youthstorytelling.com

Kevin's story work is readily available to schools, homes, and libraries all over the country and world. His DVDs and CDs have merited rave reviews and awards which include: His story "Chicken in the Library" was awarded *Video of the Year* with Storytelling with Children website. The Film Advisory Board of Excellence and The Storytelling World Award. His work in education has earned him the distinguished National Service Award from the National Storytelling Network.