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## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Paul Rykken is originally from North Dakota. He spent 10 of his formative years in Black River Falls, Wisconsin (1962-1972) as part of one of the first classes to experience a fully integrated school system. He graduated from West Fargo High School in 1975 and received his B.A. in History from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota in 1979. He earned a master's degree in American History from the University of Minnesota-Moorhead in 1985. Rykken taught in Minnesota and North Dakota for 11 years prior to coming to Black River in 1990. 2019-20 is his 41st year in secondary history education and he currently teaches four classes: AP United States History, Law and Society, US and Global Politics, and First Nations Studies: Introduction to the Tribal World. Beyond the classroom, he also coordinates the Falls History Project. Rykken was named Social Studies Teacher of the Year in 2000 by the Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies, and Wisconsin History Teacher of the Year in 2014 by the Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History of New York. In addition to his teaching duties, Rykken serves as an Adjunct Instructor with the First Nations Studies Department of UW-Green Bay as part of their CCIHS program and contributes to Wisconsin First Nations, a website devoted to American Indian Studies in Wisconsin.