



Fontana STAR

Kimberly MacKinney

shares how she is inspired



Profile in Excellence: Kimberly MacKinney, Director	
FUSD Schools Attended:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palmetto Elementary School Fontana Junior High School Fontana High School
Higher Education:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long Beach State University - Bachelor's in History California State University, San Bernardino - Teaching Credential California State University, San Bernardino - Master's in Educational Administration & Administrative Credential
FUSD Career Experiences:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher and Coach – Fontana High School Teacher, Coach, & Activities Director - Kaiser High School Assistant Principal – Fohi, Kaiser, & Summit High Schools Principal – A.B. Miller High School Director, Assessment & Evaluation – District Office
Who were the FUSD staff that affected you most as a student?	<p><i>Throughout my schooling, I had amazing teachers who cared about students and had high expectations. At Palmetto, Mrs. Bowen was the first teacher to recognize my leadership abilities. Mrs. Ragan helped me realize those same leadership skills could be a distraction from my academics. At Fojay, Mrs. Heath made sure I learned organizational skills and time management so I could multi-task. At Fohi, Mr. Warford and Mrs. Lindsay worked with me to develop my writing skills, which I continue to use today. Coach Fazio encouraged me to aim high and never accept no for an answer. Coach Bruich taught me how to be true to myself and not care what others think. My Dad, Mr. MacKinney, supported me through every endeavor, knowing just when I needed a push and when to back off.</i></p>
What did you dream of growing-up to be as a child that would lead you to your work with FUSD?	<p><i>Initially I wanted to be a Naval Aviator, but when I learned women were not allowed to fly in combat, I decided I wanted to change the system and work to end discrimination against women ... I would be the President of the United States. While I waited to be old enough for that position, I went into education so I could help young people fulfill their dreams and achieve their goals.</i></p>
Since you've joined FUSD as staff, what experience(s) have you been most proud of?	<p><i>I am proud to have created and taught the first High School Women's Studies Course in Southern California. I am proud of the work I did to open Kaiser High School. I am proud to work in Fontana. Some people think Fontana is a good place to be from, but I think Fontana is a great place to be! When my former teachers consider me a colleague and a resource, I believe I am honoring my Alma Mater and creating a positive learning</i></p>

environment that will encourage other Fontana students to be future FUSD educators.

What keeps you up at night about your work for FUSD?

As the saying goes, "So much to do, so little time to do it!" Many of my sleepless nights come from thinking about the constant amount of work that needs to be done to positively impact student learning ... How can I assist Principals so they can support teachers so they can effectively teach students? I am constantly thinking about the ways I can streamline processes and eliminate duplication so we all make the most of our time with students. If I am spending time working on tasks that do not directly impact student learning, I feel I am wasting time!

What do you think is the biggest misconception the public has about our work?

It frustrates me to hear the public's low opinion of the public school system! The school system has to be all things, to all students, at all times. Unlike a doctor or lawyer, educators do not get to pick and choose which students we help or when we will help them. Our students come to us with different backgrounds, different needs, and different experiences. Yet, we must teach all students the same material on the same timeline, regardless of what individual learning needs they may have.

What can the community do to strengthen public education?

Every adult is a mentor to a young person. When a parent, a grandparent, or a friend talks to a young person about their academics, they send the message that academic achievement is important! We can't possibly educate students without that support.

What inspires you to give your very best for the students of FUSD?

Every time I receive an email or a phone call from my former students I am elated! I am so proud to see how they have matured into responsible young adults. It is great to see how the decisions they make for themselves and their families are grounded in rational and intelligent thoughts.

What might staff or students be surprised to learn about you?

I dreaded math throughout school! I was horrible at it and still count on my fingers from time to time. I failed Algebra when I was in 8th grade, and no matter how hard I worked at it, it just didn't make sense. The second time around, I finally grasped the concept of factoring and it all clicked. Who knew I would eventually work in a position that uses math all day long?

If you know of a "Fontana Star," particularly one who was an FUSD alumnus, you can nominate him or her to be featured by emailing webmaster@fUSD.net. Please provide your name, the name of the individual being nominated, contact information for both of you and a brief description as to why you think the individual qualifies as a Fontana Star.