



Fontana STAR

Miki McCabe

shares how she is inspired

"Overall, I think I just wanted to work with people and serve. Fortunately, dreams do come true."



Miki Duran, Kindergarten
Maple Elementary School

Today, Miki is
Director of Staff Development

Profile in Excellence:

Miki McCabe, Director of Staff Development

FUSD Schools Attended:

- Maple Elementary School
- Alder Junior High School
- Fontana High School

Higher Education:

- Chaffey Community College
- California State University, San Bernardino
- University of California, Riverside

FUSD Career Experiences:

- 6th grade self-contained Teacher
- 8th Grade Language Arts/Social Studies
- Dean of School Improvement
- Assistant Principal
- Principal
- Director, Staff Development

Who were the FUSD staff that affected you most as a student?

I remember the best experiences and the worst. Everything in between is a blur. I remember how much I loved getting a star next to my name for getting 100% on my spelling test in Ms. Martin's class. I also recall how embarrassed I was when I had to put my gum on my nose in 4th grade. Who could ever forget the music Mrs. Demers played on her guitar in 6th grade? I am grateful for the PE teachers at Alder who helped my sisters and me pay for our uniforms. Mrs. Callister encouraged me to run for ASB president and that is something I will always appreciate. I vividly remember the speech Mr. Dobos asked me to write in order to address the incoming 7th graders. He calmed my nerves with positive words before I approached the microphone.

After I graduated, Mr. Dobos would regularly check out his groceries in my lane at Alpha Beta just to ask if I was, "Almost done with school?" In 1990, he wrote a letter of recommendation for my first teaching position in FUSD.

What did you dream of growing-up to be as a child that would lead you to your work with FUSD?

I dreamed of many things. At one point I wanted to be a nurse. On a different day, I considered the Army. The idea of being a stewardess (now a flight attendant) sounded interesting. As a Peer Counselor I thought I might become a professional counselor. Overall, I think I just wanted to work with people and serve. Fortunately, dreams do come true.

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| Since you've joined FUSD as staff, what experience(s) have you been most proud of? | <p><i>As an 8th grade teacher, I read the book <u>Rainbow Fish</u> to my students at the beginning of the year. I explained to them that each of us has unique qualities worthy of recognition and sharing. Every week thereafter, I would hand out handmade shimmering scales to different students recognizing them for individual strengths and talents.</i></p> <p><i>Years later, one of my former students became a teacher. She tracked me down and delivered a framed Rainbow Fish to me and wrote, "I couldn't give you just one shimmering scale...you deserve the whole fish. Thank you for believing in me."</i></p> |
| What keeps you up at night about your work for FUSD? | <p><i>In my current position? ...making sure teachers get paid on time.</i></p> |
| What do you think is the biggest misconception the public has about our work? | <p><i>One of the misconceptions the public has about our work is that we have control over a lot more than we do. We might be responsible for more areas beyond education than ever before, but we are limited in what we can mandate.</i></p> |
| What can the community do to strengthen public education? | <p><i>Visit a school site. Attend a Board Meeting. Volunteer for recess duty. Participate in PTA. The community will be impressed and amazed with the work that goes on behind closed doors and the opportunities available to the children in FUSD.</i></p> |
| What inspires you to give your very best for the students of FUSD? | <p><i>Teachers have a tremendous impact on the quality of education children receive. This fact alone motivates me to provide professional development opportunities to teachers that strengthen both knowledge and delivery.</i></p> |
| What might staff or students be surprised to learn about you? | <p><i>The \$75 Pep Squad Scholarship I received in my Senior year opened the door for college. I carried it in my purse the day I enrolled at Chaffey College.</i></p> |

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.