

"Fontana Star" is our web series profiling district staff and alumni who are distinguished for their dedication on behalf of students, commitment to excellence and notable accomplishments in service of FUSD.



Cindy Stimmell

shares how she is inspired



Profile in Excellence:

Cindy Stimmell, Executive Assistant

FUSD Schools Attended:

- Live Oak Elementary School, 1962-65
- Palmetto Elementary School, 1965-69
- Fontana Junior High, 1969-72
- Fontana High School, 1972-75

Higher Education:

- Chaffey Community College – Associates Degree

FUSD Career Experiences:

- Alder Jr. High School, January 1991 – August 1993
- A.B. Miller High School, August 1993 – September 1996
- District Office/Elementary Education, September 1996 – July 2000
- District Office/Superintendent's Office, July 2000 – Present

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

While I enjoyed all my teachers and held them in high esteem, some of the most memorable were my 4th grade teacher Ray Langlough (my first "man" teacher); Dr. Rubio, my 8th grade math teacher (I still use his long addition method today); Dave Ackley, my 9th grade Science teacher (who I had a major crush on!); Irene Combs, my 10th grade English teacher who instilled a love of the English language in me (I cringe when I hear it misused); and finally Dave Prather and Bill King, two Business teachers who gave me the skills to be where I am today! I also must mention my high school athletic coaches whose names are too numerous to mention (plus I can't remember them all) for the motivation to keep active and stay healthy.

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

I wanted to be a secretary just like my mommy, JoAnn Keeling (now Pearsall). Throughout her 26-year career with the district, she worked at Sequoia Junior High and Fontana High School.

Since you've joined FUSD as staff, what experience(s) have you been most proud of?

Aside from being selected a Fontana Star, there could be no higher honor or privilege for me than to have been chosen to work for the Superintendent of Schools. I feel I have the best job in the district.

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

Sometimes I lay awake over a parent call or situation thinking "How could I have handled that better?", but most nights I sleep very well knowing that I put forth my best efforts every day. I believe we can't ask more than that of anyone.

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

That we can take children for 6 hours a day, 9 months a year, and have the schools produce model citizens. Although I see a lot in print about struggles families are facing, the average person does

not realize how those hardships affect students and their learning. We have much to be proud of in FUSD, particularly in light of the obstacles that many of our students and teachers have to overcome.

What can the community do to strengthen public education?

Realize that it is not just the parents who hold influence over children, it is ALL adults those children come in contact with, whether on a daily basis or just a chance meeting. It is important that we all model proper behavior and high expectations.

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

Today's students are tomorrow's leaders, and if we don't do a good job of preparing them for life after 12th grade, we will have not only failed them, we will have failed ourselves and future generations.

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

My degree is in Automotive Technology, and although I don't often find the time to do so, I still enjoy tinkering on my Jeep. I was a member of the Chaffey College Racing Association and got to drive their El Camino drag racing car for two years. I'm also an Anaheim Ducks hockey fan and did the Los Angeles Marathon in 2007 (OK, so I hobbled over the finish line, but I least I did finish!).

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.