

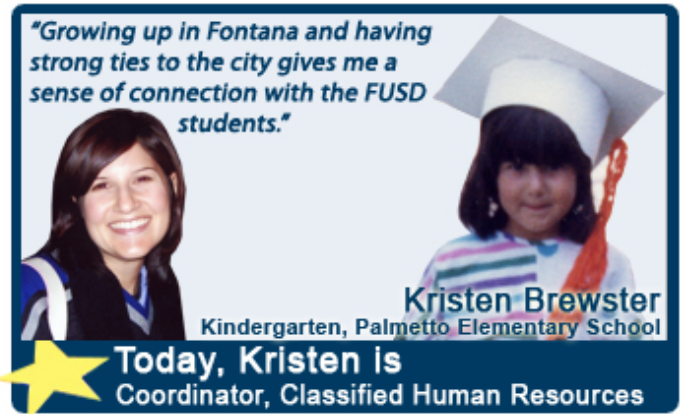
"Fontana Star" is our web series profiling district staff and alumni who are distinguished for their dedication on behalf of students, commitment to excellence and notable accomplishments in service of FUSD.



Fontana STAR

Kristen Brewster

shares how she is inspired



Profile in Excellence:

Kristen Brewster, Coordinator

FUSD Schools Attended:

- Palmetto Elementary School
- Fontana Middle School
- Fontana High School

Higher Education:

- Riverside Community College
- Chaffey College – Associate Degree
- California State University, San Bernardino - Bachelor Degree

FUSD Career Experiences:

I began working at FUSD as a Work Experience Student in Child Welfare & Attendance/Student Services. After graduating, I continued working as a Sub Clerk Typist and was later hired in the front office of the Classified Human Resources department. Ten years have passed and I'm fortunate to have been given the opportunity to grow within the department. I'm looking forward to new challenges as the Coordinator of Classified Human Resources.

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

Ms. Ksell at Palmetto always made learning fun and interactive; Mrs. Kurth at Palmetto was never my teacher, but my older brother Mike was in her class and so inspired that he couldn't wait to come home from school to teach me what he was learning in her class... to this day he still takes credit for my good grades; Mrs. Benedickt and Mrs. Frankowski gave the Palmetto office a warm sense of "community"; Mrs. Fowler demonstrated literature as the art of storytelling; Mr. Dison at Fontana High made the writing process seem so fluid and natural; Coaches "Spotty" Stevens, Mr. MacKinney, and Mrs. Alfaro-MacKinney – sports are an important piece of the high school experience!

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

I dreamt of being a writer or a teacher. Until my junior year in college, I was planning on pursuing a career in teaching until I discovered from working at the FUSD Human Resources office that the HR field allowed me to incorporate those things which I enjoyed – writing, critical thinking, sharing knowledge, and helping others.

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

I'm proud to be part of a team of hard working professionals. Working in Classified Human Resources, I'm especially proud that paraprofessionals District-wide achieved NCLB compliance, and of all the work the HR office staff completed behind the scenes. Our employees' achievements translate into student achievement = API growth!

What keeps you up at night about your work for FUSD?	<i>Working in Human Resources can be a bit of a roller coaster ride: while there are many high points shared with employees, such as congratulating in a promotion or retirement, they don't occur without low points as well, such as layoffs.</i>
What do you think is the biggest misconception the public has about our work?	<i>I think there is a misconception that when students are on track break, there is "down-time". <u>No time</u> is down time at a school district.</i>
What can the community do to strengthen public education?	<i>Increase student attendance; encourage casual reading and writing (not just as "homework"); promote education as an investment in our future.</i>
What inspires you to give your very best for the students of FUSD?	<i>Growing up in Fontana and having strong ties to the city gives me a sense of connection with the FUSD students. Their experiences in Fontana schools will shape their future. Realizing that we all play a part in that experience – whether it is through direct contact in the classroom or processing the application of a future employee who will make an impact – is what inspires me.</i>
What might staff or students be surprised to learn about you?	<i>I am a die-hard LA Kings fan... Go Kings Go!</i>

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.