

Susan Young
Vista Heights Middle School



In her eighteen years of teaching in the Moreno Valley Unified School District, Susan Young has demonstrated creativity and leadership in her mission to engage and improve the education of her students.

Mrs. Young is concerned with providing a challenging, academically rigorous curriculum for her students. Students in her classroom are regularly required to read and interpret primary and secondary source materials and students in her GATE class write Document Based Questions in order to prepare them for the AP classes they will take in high school. She is a leader in technology on campus, and she currently maintains the school's website.

Mrs. Young's class has been working on an innovative project this year--her campaign to run for President of the United States. Her students have been running all aspects of the campaign and her campaign has generated positive media attention for our school district highlighting the success of her students.

Mrs. Young's students regularly participate in National History Day at the county, state, and national levels. She is the parent chairperson for the GATE District Advisory Committee. She is a team player who supports student success throughout the Inland Empire.

Mark Hasson, Principal

**History-
Social Science
Educators of
Excellence**

2015

Leah Belote
Sunnymead Middle School



Leah Belote teaches social studies and AVID to 6-8 grade students at Sunnymead Middle School. She consistently provides a positive classroom experience, relating well with students and providing a supportive learning environment. Her lessons are well prepared involving interactive technology

to guide conceptual understanding of the standards. She brings in guest speakers and took a large group of students to see the Terra Cotta Warriors at Bowers Museum in Santa Ana.

Ms. Belote goes that extra mile to encourage, motivate, and support low-performing students to rise above their circumstances and set goals for their future. Her enthusiasm inspires her students. Ms. Belote initiated a school-wide afterschool tutoring program and she is an active member of the AVID team. She organized our annual college readiness week, where she provided over 1500 students with a binder fully equipped with A-G requirements. She has been on the forefront of our African Advisory Committee as well as our Junior Black Achievers program. She is a team player, and strives continuously to raise the bar in the academic and social achievement of every student on our campus.

Ms. Belote always goes above and beyond for our students. She truly exemplifies excellence through her dedication, tenacity, and selflessness.

Jennifer Castillo, Principal

Gale L. Brill
Vista Heights Middle School



Gale Brill is in her 20th year as a 6th grade social studies and language arts teacher. She creates a social studies experience that embodies deeper understanding, frequently involving them in hands-on experiences, for example, the making of clay tablets in the study of ancient alphabets, providing end-of-unit “feasts”, and incorporating Hebrew and Greek song and folk dances.

She has developed a curriculum of rigorous research referred to as the 100 Facts Project whereby they answer three essential questions on the subject and prepare a complete oral presentation including an audio-visual aid. The project includes research, public speaking, the use of primary and secondary sources, and creativity.

In order to grasp understanding of the modern world, Ms. Brill incorporates an economic and business unit wherein the students set up their own businesses. They maintain records for their businesses, determine profit and loss, learn advertising, and actually set up a panel of interviewers who interview those students applying for jobs outside of the businesses. Calling upon her former IRS experience, Ms. Brill teaches the students how to complete an actual Federal Income Tax Return for the year. She is truly a content master of the 6th grade social studies curriculum, enhancing it to an uncommon richness.

Mark Hasson, Principal

Kevin Button
Norco High School



Kevin has taught World History, US History, Economics, Government, AP Government and Honors Economics at Norco High. He also taught 9th grade Language Arts for one year. He is extensively involved in the communities of Norco and Corona, and he has been a commissioner for the City of Corona.

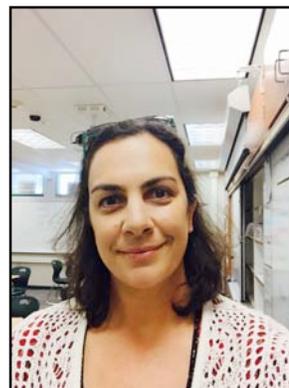
Kevin's passion for developing responsible citizens has led to involvement and leadership

in several student clubs and teams including Mock Trial, Rotary Interact Club, YMCA Youth and Government, Boy Scouts of America, and Naval Sea Cadets. He also founded the Norco Educational Support Team (NEST) which is a group of dedicated teachers and community members who work to raise funds that can be used by students at Norco High for school related programs and activities.

Kevin exemplifies the amazing things that can happen when communities and schools come together for the benefit of our children.

Diana Stiller

Sarah Hatchell
Victor Valley Union High School



Ms. Sarah Hatchell is an excellent AP European, world, and AVID teacher. She is extremely knowledgeable about technology and, not only incorporates in her classes, but is open to share with her colleagues. She always goes above and beyond to help her students, and is the Mock Trial Coach and part of the AVID Site Team. She is well respected among her peers. Ms. Hatchell

regularly gives professional development on the use of document based questions as well as technology.

She is the consummate professional in all she does. Her webpage (<http://629432453450968854.weebly.com>), as well as her Symbaloo page

(<http://www.symbaloo.com/mix/apeuropeanhistory?searched=true>), are remarkable..

Ms. Hatchell was involved with writing the 10th grade honors world history College Board course description for her district and has been involved with the Teaching American History Grant.

She was selected for a prestigious Gilder Lehrman summer institute in 2013. She volunteers much of her time in helping her colleagues and she is both hardworking and dedicated to her craft.

Anita Tucker

Donna Krause
Ramona High School



Walking into Donna Krause's classroom, you enter an environment enveloped in engagement and student-centered learning. Her broad content knowledge, self-directed professional development, and participation in RUSD's Becoming an Historian Project (2008-2014), has given her a deep love for her subject matter and the tools to inspire her students' learning and academic development.

Entering into her 9th year as an educator, she will openly acknowledge her instruction over the past 18 months has been some of the most challenging with the introduction of Common Core Standards and the vast changes made to the AP curriculum, yet, by persevering and using creative strategies and a synergistic application of digital learning, she continues to model and inspire her.

It is plainly evident she loves working with her classes, and they reciprocate in kind by striving to attain the lofty goals and objectives she sets for them, whether associated to classroom learning, project-based learning such as National History Day, or student leadership or service learning within the Riverside community. She is a consummate professional educator, recognized as a team player by her department peers, history colleagues, school site leadership and district personnel.

Michael Gull

Jennifer Longueira
Adelanto High School



Jennifer Longueira teaches AP European, world history honors, and economics. She is extremely organized and spends hours developing lesson plans to help her students and is considered a mentor teacher at her site. As department chair, she has set the standard for the courses, encouraged the implementation of AP classes, and established History Day as a requirement for honors world history. She wrote the College Board course description for world history honors which was approved on the first submission.

Ms. Longueira has been class advisor for the class of 2015 and is currently the advisor for the class of 2017. She attends nearly every sporting or academic event to support her students. She has been a strong mentor for her students, many of whom will be attending college for the first time.

Ms. Longueira is a dedicated and tireless teacher devoted to her students and her colleagues. She has worked hard to ensure that history receives its due in her school and in the district and always is open to share her ideas and knowledge.

Anita Tucker

Mike Martinez
Victor Valley Union High School



Mike Martinez is currently teaching US History and AP US History, but he has taught the whole gamut of courses. Mike has had the highest AP scores in the district for several years. He is currently the department chair, a mentor for the teaching staff, a member of the School Site Council and facilitator of the

Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction Team. Throughout the school year, he tutors students in order to provide them with multiple opportunities to be successful.

Mike an incredible instructor, displaying greatness in his teaching. In his classroom, student ideas are celebrated and values are honored, mutual respect exists between student and teacher, and a supportive and collaborative learning community is actively taking place.

Most of the instructors on campus seek Mike's expertise in instructional strategies and technology, and he is working to improve learning outcomes site-wide. The main reason Mike is truly great are his personal characteristics he displays in life. He is a humble person who never talks down to people and respects the position of others on various issues. He takes the time to listen and is patient.

Even after 15 years, he still comes to work with excitement for the opportunity to educate students and create lessons that make students ask questions. Students at Victor know that Mr. Martinez will challenge, respect and honor them.

Chris Douglass, Principal

Daniel McCloud
Frank Augustus Miller Middle School



Entering into his 5th year as an instructor, at Frank Augustus Miller Middle School, Daniel McCloud continually dedicates himself to the delivery of high-quality instruction and student engagement, invigorating his middle school classroom with passion and rigor, and holding students to higher levels of accountability. Always looking for new, creative strategies

to promote engagement and center instruction around the students (*rather than himself*), he voluntarily participates in professional development opportunities and works as a collaborative departmental peer to help identify quality opportunities for Common Core Literacy.

In addition to his full-time classroom position, he volunteers after-school, coordinating a school-site Intervention Program, addressing the academic needs of 20 of Frank Augustus Miller's most struggling students, working with them to advance their study skills and academic prowess.

Truly, he is a compassionate, caring educator who infuses rigor, relevance, and fun into his classes, pushing all students to go beyond simple knowledge and comprehension, using the Common Core, the history content standards and analytical thinking to understand the world around them, making each of them better prepared for the challenges of college, career and life.

Michael Gull

Deborah Peace
Pinon Mesa Middle School



The dedication and commitment Deborah Peace puts toward her profession goes far beyond average. She inspires a life-long passion for learning in her students and her enthusiasm for technology spreads far beyond the walls of her classroom. Her former students have deep knowledge of content, a broad understanding of

overarching concepts, and, most notably, a pride in intellectual learning beyond their peers. She is exceptional in making content relevant and engaging.

Deb Peace is a curricular leader, constantly seeking new and better ways to teach. She incorporated Project for Awesome into her curriculum, in which students research a charity and create their own commercial to upload to a YouTube competition. Last year, she took three county finalists in History Day to state competition.

Deb Peace leads the district in incorporating technology, investing much of her own time and money to provide 21st learning for her students. She maintains much of the technology on our campus. She presents at conferences and is soon to be a Google Certified teacher. Mrs. Peace coaches the 7th grade Academic Pentathlon team, sponsors CJSF, monitors tutoring before and after school, and runs a Technology Club. She serves on several staff committees and is active in the TAH program. In my 20 years, I have never known a more committed, talented, and inspiring colleague.

Jeni Boulanger

Kevin Roughton
Jurupa Middle School



Kevin Roughton is "the" social studies teacher at Jurupa Middle School. In 2011, Kevin received the Riverside County Teacher of the Year award. When you step into Kevin's classroom, you can understand why. Kevin creates unique and dynamic lessons that challenge students to think, ask questions, and apply their learning

in new ways. He keeps them focused and interested with his technological wizardry. Kevin has also developed and posted his own website with all of his amazing lessons. Teachers from all over have found his website and use his ideas in their classroom. Kevin is the leader of the curriculum for his department and grade level. He has also presented numerous times at Southern California Social Studies events this past year.

Kevin serves as the AVID coordinator. The program under his leadership is unmatched among most middle school programs. He builds unity and the AVID students become a family with a close bond. All of Kevin's students know that he cares about them and wants all of them to go to college. Kevin lives in the community and supports it in every way he can. He and his students lead the way at the annual Holiday food drive that is held each year at our school. Kevin has been there every year with his students lifting boxes of food, making stockings for children, creating holiday cards, and welcoming every family that attends.

Mr. Roughton is truly an inspiring and masterful teacher.

Terri M. Stevens, Principal

James Steinman
West Shores High School



James Steinman is dedicated to his craft. He works hard. He is data driven but always includes the human element in dealing with students. He will push students and allow them to struggle until they get to the point where they need some guidance, holding students accountable for their own learning

and comprehension. Evidence of this is the frequent Socratic seminars, philosophical chairs, and mock trials he holds in his class

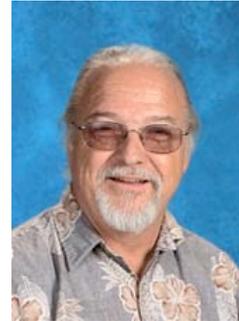
James is a multitasker with great technological skills. He enhances his lessons with technology from Edmodo, Class Dojo, websites, blogs, wikis, and student generated projects and lessons. Mr. Steinman is that kind of person that thrives on a challenge because he can dissect it and organize it into smaller manageable chunks.

James is motivated to improve the teaching profession. He sees challenges where others see obstacles. He uses History Day as a cornerstone for learning and his students tend to receive high accolades at the district and county levels for their well organized and researched projects.

Mr. Steinman makes significant contributions to education as the ultimate professional. He is interested in results and will get them through researching and testing methods and theories. People like him undoubtedly end up producing students capable of higher level critical thinking.

Richard Pimentel, Assistant Principal

Russell Turner
Villegas Middle School



Russ is an eighth grade U.S. history teacher. He is a leader both on campus and among his peers throughout the district. He has co-coached the Villegas Speech Team for the last six years.

To address bullying on campus because of gender issues, Russ co-founded the Human Rights Club, resulting in a significant drop in the incidences of bullying campus wide. . For thirteen years, he has espoused that all students deserve equal opportunities, not only in the core curriculum, but extracurricular activities as well.

Russ has been a valuable member of the Common core curriculum writing team—using his understanding to create formative assessments. He spends numerous hours researching primary and secondary source materials to foster clearer understanding for his students. He understands how history-social science impacts the lives of our students and the necessity to equip all students with skills that allows them to navigate the world successfully.

Last year, Russ and another colleague brought National History Day to his school. Attending the CCSS conference last March, he gained some new insights and encouraged colleagues to jump in with him, and this year Villegas will host its first annual History Day where projects from 6th, 7th, and 8th will be on display for the community to view. Russ has earned great respect for his determination to support our love of history-social science.

Jan Lafferty

Luis Valdovinos
California Military Institute



Luis Valdovinos brings an amazing and profoundly effective approach to teaching and learning. His pedagogy is one which exemplifies superior understanding of not only content, but also how to make the content relevant and connect it to students.

Mr. Valdovinos uses a Socratic approach which makes the learning stand the test of time. His use of technology is one which others strive to emulate, but few can. Every lesson he delivers is rich in content, fosters individual subject exploration, and has clearly defined outcomes aligned to standards. He believes that high expectations and high levels of performance yield positive results. His students perform at higher levels by every measure, at the school and up through district and county levels.

As department chairman, he creates an environment full of excitement, making sure students in all classes have the best possible educational experience. He infuses into his colleagues at school and in the district, his same laser focused approach to the social sciences.

In 2014-15, Luis was awarded Rookie Teacher of the Year, only one of his numerous well-deserved accolades. He is a humble educator who comes to work each day enthusiastic about teaching, learning, and the possibilities he can create for everyone with whom he interacts. His teaching gets our utmost enthusiasm, fervor and zeal.

Michael A. Rhodes

Michael Williams
Beaumont High School



Michael Williams has been a teacher for Beaumont Unified School District since 2008, and has proven to be exceptional in several aspects. First, Mr. Williams is exceptionally diligent and hard working. He worked many extra hours throughout the past school years on our district History Day competition to benefit the students and staff of Beaumont Unified School

District. Mr. Williams's involvement resulted in our students competing and winning at county and state levels.

Second, Mr. Williams is exceptionally innovative in the classroom. He proved to be a very reliable colleague participating in a variety of district level initiatives including Professional Learning Communities, school wide AVID strategy implementation, and is a History Social Science department lead to name a few. His integration of technology into the classroom is on the forefront of student success. Mr. Williams wholeheartedly threw himself into establishing a comprehensive history social science program and shows every sign of having real talent in curriculum and instruction and teacher leadership.

Third, Mr. Williams is very good at building relationships with his colleagues and his students. He is known for going the extra mile to make sure his students are successful. Mr. Williams is not only good humored and friendly, but also is good at gauging other people's level of knowledge and attitudes.

Christina Goennier, Asst. Supt. of Instruction