

# Veronica Carlson

Moon Valley High School, Phoenix, AZ

High School Math Education

9th-12th Grade Algebra



2005 Honorees



“Since my first year of teaching, and realizing the importance of providing realistic mathematical uses of the content being learned, I have also continually looked

for contact people, guest speakers or field trips for students to learn about the uses of mathematics in a variety of workplaces... I have always been looking for a more familiar use of a system of linear inequalities (graphing two linear inequalities on the same grid), when it happened that I discovered additional postage was needed on a new greeting card. I learned, from the post office, that the letters we mail need to meet the requirements of not only weight, but also of size (a system of linear inequalities). From this realization, I created an activity where students needed to sketch the graphs of the postal regulations and then use envelopes that I provided to determine which would need additional postage. I shared my activity with the postmaster at my local post office and she provided me with the actual template that the postal employees use to determine if additional postage is required.”

“I am fortunate to teach in a large metropolitan city where there are many businesses and industries. Knowing the importance of providing real-world examples of how math is used, I created the summer Pre-Algebra Program for incoming freshmen for our school district. A key component of the program is taking students on field trips to see how math is used in the workplace. During the four-week program, students participated in three field trips to see and learn first-hand how math is used.” – *Veronica Carlson*

“The way Mrs. Carlson

teaches her class is that not only does she involve all the students, but she involves what we are interested in. For example, we did a project on parabolic hot dog cookers. What we had to do was to come up with the right formula and if the formula was correct the hot dogs would cook. If not, then the hot dogs might be undercooked or not cooked at all. This unique experiment helped us to understand the importance of mathematical formulas in a way that was fun, yet practical.” – *former student*



## Other Highlights:

Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching, National Science Foundation (1992)

GTE GIFT Fellow (1996)

RadioShack National Teacher Award (2000)

Distinguished Education Alumni, Northern Arizona University (1997)

Golden Bell Award, Arizona School Board Association (1990)

Achievement Above All, Glendale Union High School District (1994)

Arizona State Department of Education – Committee member to develop the Arizona State Mathematics Standards

Member, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

Member, Arizona Association of Teachers of Mathematics

Years Teaching: 20

Average Class Size: 30

Classes Taught Per Day: 5

School's Percent of ESL Students: 9

School Type: Public, Large City

Type of Class: Inclusion