

# Wanda Jennings

Jefferson Elementary, Boise, ID

Early Childhood Elementary Education

1st Grade



2005 Honorees



“I establish a climate that fosters learning and social responsibility, sets norms for social interaction, and assists students in resolving disputes and conflicts. In our class we take care of our-

selves, we take care of each other and we take care of this place. As children are developing from self-centered to other-centered, they learn to care for others and their environment. I believe that the child’s home culture is important to the child’s well-being and to the ability of the home to support the school. I go on home visits to each family so I can get to know the children’s families, their culture, their history, their values and their environment, and for them to get to know me; helping to build bridges from home and school and to make the connections of community.”

“Now I am teaching first grade and I welcome the inclusion of special education students into my classroom, marveling at how the other children accept them, teach them and learn from them. Our school is now a center for refugee and immigrant children. These students come to school directly from refugee camps, never having been in a school before, not speaking English and not understanding what is going on. The other children take them under their wings, treasure their differences and help them along, embracing this diversity as well. I am impressed with the ability of every student to adapt, to accept, to empathize, to cherish and to help those who need it. I am a better teacher for having been taught by my students.”

– Wanda Jennings

“I volunteered in Mrs. Jennings class at least once a week and witnessed Mrs. Jennings marvelous gift, so necessary in a teacher: she understands the learning style of each student and adjusts for each individual. The result made her class perfect for first graders! It was always joyfully busy with children working on the same subject, in any number of different ways. If the subject was reading, some students might be writing a story together, some might be at a computer creating a full scale book while advanced readers might be helping other students read aloud. Each student was enjoying what they were doing! Mrs. Jennings always found just the right way to make learning ‘click’ for each student.”

– Jenny Sternling, parent of former student



## Other Highlights:

Red Apple Award for Outstanding Service to Education, Boise’s Highest Honor for Teachers (1998)

Empire Who’s Who (2005-2006)

Soroptimist International Woman of Distinction (2002)

Outstanding Teacher of the Year, Tuluksak, Alaska (1989)

Merit Award, Alaska Department of Education (1989)

Woman of the Year, Beta Sigma Phi (1984, 1987, 1992, 1995, 2003)

National Board Certification, Early Childhood Generalist (2000)

Board of Examiners, National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (2004-2007)

**Years Teaching:** 33

**Average Class Size:** 23

**Classes Taught Per Day:** 1

**School’s Percent of ESL Students:** 30

**School Type:** Public, Medium-Small City

**Type of Class:** Self-contained