

Carol Anne McGuire

Imperial Elementary, Anaheim Hills, CA

Special Needs Education

K-6th Grade Resource Program for Blind and Visually Impaired Students



2005 Honorees



“My students’ ‘disability’ in and of itself requires being creative. In order for their regular education teachers to be effective, the instructional aides and I work hard to ensure that the students understand all the concepts being taught to them.”

“The State of California provides their curriculum books in Braille, which are tremendously helpful.

However, science books do not have graphs or graphics included in Braille, and the social studies books do not have Braille maps. So these missing parts give us a wonderful opportunity to be creative! We have made maps and graphs with things such as fabric swatches, tiles, sandpaper, Wikki Stix (a waxy pipe cleaner), and a myriad of other common household objects! Whenever possible, science experiments are also hands-on. For example, in order for my students to know what a volcano is, we must build one and make sure it actually explodes!”

“When we studied the rainforest, I brought in 20 nine-foot ficus trees and 40 ferns. We created an actual rainforest in our classroom. Previously, the only experience the kids had with trees were with those in the park. And they were surprised to find out that trees had pinch-y branches and so many leaves. Their experience with the trees in the park was only what they could touch - usually just the trunk.”

– Carol Anne McGuire

“Carol Anne measures success by how far her students can soar and succeed despite their challenges. Carol Anne will tell you, ‘The students are only blind; they can do everything but see.’ This belief is truly realized when you meet her students. They meet and exceed the California Education Standards as well as completing projects that one might not first believe a blind student could ever accomplish. For example, last year her students wrote, filmed and edited the movie ‘Get a Clue’ which won awards across the State of California.” – Gillian Pons, elementary special education coordinator, Orange County School District

Other Highlights:

Apple Distinguished Educator (2004)

Surf Aquarium Top Online Educator (2005)

School Teacher of the Year (1998)

Awarded two California State Media & Multimedia Festival Awards, Cal State Technology Showcase

Class hosted their own Rock Our World TV show which has been submitted for an Emmy

Member, Computer Using Educators

Member, California Technology Assistance Project

Years Teaching: 15

Average Class Size: 8

Classes Taught Per Day: n/a

School’s Percent of ESL Students: 10

School Type: Public, Suburban

Type of Class: Resource Room