

Roberta Patterson

Millikan High School, Long Beach, CA

Arts Education

High School Arts



2005 Honorees



“I believe that an education in the arts prepares my students for adult life far better than narrowly focused educational programs. As disciplines of extraordinary breadth and depth, the visual and performing arts help students develop their intellect in ways that encourage critical thought and proactive engagement. Through the arts we create and recreate our world with a keen sense of the need to continually humanize it, to make houses into homes and neighborhoods into communities. This need serves as a catalyst for creative innovation. When my students express themselves, they participate in a reflexive and interpretive process that allows them to advantageously adapt to the world. Our capacity to evaluate and adapt, to approach challenges with forethought and anticipation, is what guides the daily practice of lifelong learning.”

“Through the arts I teach students how to identify their passions and pursue them with unwavering diligence. I show them the history and beauty of the world, and help them lose and then find themselves in the intricacies of the images within and around us.
– Roberta Patterson

“Mrs. Patterson’s gift of teaching is not just the ability to impart knowledge, it is the way she is able to instill confidence in her students making them believe that they can achieve. She encourages her students to set goals and then reach beyond. This encouragement is not limited to the subject of art. Mrs. Patterson is continuously encouraging her students to think beyond high school and to look forward to college. She has shared valuable information with my daughter and all of the sons and daughters in her classes, of the importance of being organized and prepared for the college application process. Her door is always open to students and her willingness to help any student that enters her door is undaunted.”

– Holly Jacobs, parent of former student



Other Highlights:

Long Beach Teacher of the Year (2001)

Los Angeles County Teacher Of The Year (2001)

Toyota International Teacher Scholar

Mentor Teacher, Par Consulting Teacher

Part time lecturer, Cal State University Long Beach

National Board Certification (2003)

Years Teaching: 23

Average Class Size: 34

Classes Taught Per Day: 3

School’s Percent of ESL Students: 45

School Type: Public, Large City

Type of Class: Inclusion