

2006 HONOREE

## Amy Dunaway-Haney

Kettering Fairmont High School, Kettering, OH  
High School Humanities Education • 9th-12th Grade Spanish



**Years Teaching:** 14

**Average Class Size:** 25

**Classes Taught Per Day:** 5

**School's % of ESL Students:** 3%

**School Type:** Public, Suburban

**Type of Class:** Self-contained

“High-stakes testing presents unique challenges for classroom teachers who strive to engage students through creative lessons and innovative activities. However, it is essential to remember that students can demonstrate their understanding of the concepts that they are learning in class in many ways, not only through traditional testing. In addition, there are countless methods that may be utilized to prepare students for state-mandated tests as well as college entrance and advancement placement tests. My students take traditional tests to demonstrate mastery of the learning goals, but they also write, create projects, participate in community activities, and volunteer weekly as tutors for all of the Spanish students at our school. They participate in numerous fun, interactive class activities, such as pet day, creating a spring vacation composition scrapbook, partner conversation tapes, a class reunion future tense project, letter writing campaigns, and peer writing and speaking evaluations. Students take ownership of their learning because they have to demonstrate their knowledge to me and each other every day, often in front of the class.”

“My students sheepishly admit that they have never been in a classroom quite like mine. Yes, students are expected to learn using many of the traditional tools they have used in the past. However, they are surprised to find themselves in a fast-paced learning environment that



requires them to apply their learning constantly, consistently, and creatively, in ways that challenge them to exceed even their own expectations. For instance, every student is expected to chant helpful mnemonic devices, sing, dance, think critically, and participate actively in the daily lesson every day.”

“Mrs. Dunaway-Haney demonstrates appreciation for student ideas and contributions; students feel valued and affirmed and respond, predictably, with enthusiasm and cooperation. Amy is extremely knowledgeable of her subject area, dedicated to the teaching profession, and very serious about making a difference in the lives of students. Amy reaches out to all types of students, not just to those in her classes. I am certain that Amy’s ability, drive, and persistence will bring her tremendous success in any endeavor she chooses to pursue. In my twenty-five years in education, I have never seen a better teacher.”

– Dr. James J. Schoenlein, principal,  
Kettering Fairmont High School

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

Ohio Foreign Language Outstanding Teacher (2005) • Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year (2005) • Freida J. Riley National Teaching Award (2002) • MDA National Personal Achievement Award (2002) • Jiffy Lube Excellence in Teaching (2000)