

2006 HONOREE

Allison Nega

Lincoln Park Academy, Fort Pierce, FL
Arts Education • 6th-12th Grade Dance and Drama



Years Teaching: 3

Average Class Size: 35

Classes Taught Per Day: 7

School's % of ESL Students: 10%

School Type: Public, Inner City

Type of Class: Self-contained

“In my classroom we practice bold ideas, creative freedom, and acceptance. I tell each of my classes that we are not merely a ‘class’, but an ‘ensemble’ of artists. Only by supporting each member of the ensemble can we create work that is meaningful. One of the greatest joys I have had in teaching is the power of bringing young people together. Year after year I watch the phenomenon of unity; an extremely diverse group of kids forming an unbreakable bond. With creative freedom and acceptance, this never fails to happen! I thrive on the diversity of my classes; I cannot imagine it any other way. Each year the plays that I choose and the dances that I choreograph are completely inspired by the students I see before me. It is my goal to guide each of my students to explore a part of themselves that they were afraid to express, or that they never thought existed. I have seen a student with dysgraphia write a one-act play, a tremendously withdrawn student perform a modern dance solo, an awkward outcast direct an electrifying play, and the most popular kid in school write about how truly insecure and scared he is about graduating. Like the proverbial tree falling in the forest, my classroom just doesn’t exist without my students.”

“Every year students, teachers, staff, and parents feel the pressure of countless testing requirements. Often, art education and creative activities are seen



as ‘distractions’ to the testing or ‘rewards’ for a job well done. One of my professional goals is to educate teachers and administrators about the benefits of arts-infused curriculum. Art can help bridge that precarious gap between learning and knowing. In fact, I believe that art is the core of learning. Creative practices inevitably lead to a deeper understanding of any subject. I have made it a real mission of mine to demonstrate that being accountable means being creative.”

“Every so often, there is one person that, without even trying, changes everything. In Fort Pierce, FL that one person is Ms. Allison Nega. I, myself, had a horrible time in high school. I met Ms. Nega my senior year and she reshaped my attitude about school, life, and myself. She is the kind of person who gives her students real courage. She ignites our minds with passion, because only someone as passionate as her can so effectively do that. She is the jewel of Lincoln Park Academy, if not all of St. Lucie County.”

— former student

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program Alternate (2006) •
Playwright Discovery Teacher Award - VSAarts/Kennedy Center (2005) •
Educational Lamp Award - St. Lucie County (2004) • Outstanding First Year
Teacher of the Year - Lincoln Park Academy (2004)