

2006 HONOREE

Jennifer Wilson

Grant Ranch School, Littleton, CO
Primary Elementary Education • 3rd Grade



Years Teaching: 15

Average Class Size: 27

Classes Taught Per Day: N/A

School's % of ESL Students: 18%

School Type: Public, Large City

Type of Class: Self-contained

“The single most influential shaping event of my career would be ‘the letter.’ I had waited for months for an envelope with a return address of ‘The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.’ I dreamed of opening the envelope and reading, ‘Congratulations...’ So, when the envelope arrived, I tore it open only to have my heart hit the floor. ‘Thank you...’ were the first words. I had never before ‘failed’ at anything in my life. I began to discuss the issue with colleagues who suggested that I ask someone who had achieved certification. So I did. They read my submission and said that it lacked feeling and honesty and thinking. However, they said they’d be willing to help me resubmit. Wow, did I grow. They guided me to reflect on my teaching. Whole new doors opened as I began to collaborate with peers; as I admitted that I didn’t know everything. I truly changed as a teacher – I became a learner. And when I wrote up those thoughtful lessons and reflections I did attain National Board Certification. The pride of certification wasn’t because of a title, but because of hard work and an honest evolution. I will never stop learning from – and for – my students.”

“Every single day that I step into my classroom leaves an enduring impression on me. How could it not? The eager eyes, the different personalities, the challenge of figuring out how each child learns. My students leave the classroom and head home each evening, but in



my mind and heart, they never leave. As I drive home, I re-live the day. As I cook dinner, I review the lessons. As I climb between the sheets, I contemplate changes I can implement. As I enter the classroom for a new day, I anticipate reactions and plan for success. Every day shapes me as a teacher.”

“Jennifer has a wonderful way of making all the students feel important and valued in the classroom. She makes sure that each child gets a chance to shine. Students share their writings, art, and thoughts openly and willingly. There are always poems, books, stories, and art on the walls outside Jennifer’s classroom to share with the world the efforts of her students. She uses every resource available to her to challenge and motivate her students. I am thankful every day that my son had the opportunity to grow with such an incredible teacher.”

– Michelle Moss,
parent of former student

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

Excel Energy Classroom Connection Disseminator Grant (2006, 2005, 2003, 2002) • Gold Star Teaching Award (2005) • Skillful Teacher Award (2003) • National Board Certification (1999)