



Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year Recipient

Dear County Residents,

It is with great pleasure that I announce the 2009 Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year Recipient. Ms. Y. Elizabeth Siordia from Desert Shadows Middle School was awarded as the 2009 Teacher of the Year for Santa Cruz County at the 2nd Annual Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year Reception held at the Quality Inn (Americana Hotel) on August 7, 2009. Ms. Siordia also received the Paul Harris Humanitarian Award from the Rotary Clubs of Santa Cruz County.

Ms. Siordia grew up in Nogales, Sonora and earned a degree in Chemistry from the Instituto Tecnológico de Nogales. In 1997 she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education and Business Administration at Prescott College; in 2000 she earned her Masters of Education in Bilingual/Multicultural Education. Prior to joining Nogales Unified School District No. 1 in 1993, Ms. Siordia taught at the Pima Community College for three years. During her career in Education, Ms. Siordia has participated in numerous staff development and leadership activities and has been actively involved in Professional Associations including the National Association of Education, Professional Educators of Nogales and Future Business Leaders of America/Phi Beta Lambda.

Ms. Siordia is a highly respected professional in our community. She is distinguished for her creativity, passion for knowledge, innovation and humbleness demeanor inside and outside the classroom. Ms. Siordia's nomination statement says "I believe in treating each student as an individual. All people are given their share of tools to work in life, but for a student to build their own strong foundation, it is necessary to understand that each one uses their tools in a different way. I believe that getting to know each student individually will help build stronger foundations."

On behalf of the Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools Office and the Rotary Clubs of Santa Cruz County, we would like to congratulate Ms. Siordia for her commitment and dedication in educating our children and making a difference in their lives.

Sincerely,

Alfredo I. Velásquez
Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools



Ms. Y. Elizabeth Siordia
Math Teacher
Desert Shadows Middle School