

CEAO Selects 2010 Teacher of the Year



Mary Latorre, English teacher at Tecumseh High School, Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility has been chosen as the Correctional Education Association of Ohio 2010 Teacher of the Year & CEA Region 3 teacher of the Year. Mary received her award and was recognized at the CEAO Conference held in September, 2010 at the Sawmill Creek Resort, Huron, Ohio. Mary will be representing Ohio at the Region III Conference to be held in Wisconsin in May, 2011. At the conference, Mary will compete with other CEA Region III Teachers of the Year for the Region III Teacher of the Year honor. Mary shared the following

biography with CEAO:

When our three kids were in high school, my husband noted that soon we'd have three in college. "You should probably go get a degree and a job so we can afford it." That sounded like a plan, so I crammed four years of college into two, dual majored in English and history and graduated from Youngstown State with a B.S. in Education. My marriage went south, my son went to college, and one daughter joined the Marines and the other the Army. So much for the best laid plans.

After substituting for a year in districts near Youngstown, I moved to a small Texas border town and taught at a junior high with 800 7th and 8th graders. My colleagues introduced me to their friends as the school's token non-male, non-coach, damn Yankee social studies teacher from Idaho. Dismayed parents asked how an Ohioan (Is that like Iowa?) could possibly be teaching Texas History. After six years I had the opportunity to move back to Ohio and teach at the same high school where my son was (and still is) the band director. For five years I taught English, Journalism and Yearbook.

Then one day I found myself in a hotel room in Athens interviewing for a job at Al Jazeera Academy in Doha, Qatar (a tiny emirate between Saudi Arabia and Iraq). Being the only American teacher at a Muslim, British curriculum, gender separated high school presented many challenges. One of which was trying to explain why Atticus Finch didn't kill Scout as a matter of honor when Dill was found underneath her bed. I heard Ohio calling.

These days, when I'm not teaching English at Ohio River Valley JCF, I'm making quilts for my eight grandkids, cycling, gardening or playing with my Danish Retriever named Grizzly.

CEAO is proud to recognize Mary as an exemplary teacher in correctional education and give her best wishes for success as she competes at the next level for Region III Teacher of the Year.