

## 2011 Teacher of the Year Finalists



From Left to Right - Dana Berry, Tammy White, Bill Lewis, Donna Marshalko, and Amanda Crist

### Donna Marshalko

"Where ever the direction your career may take you, one thing is for certain, no one will ever take your education. It goes where you go!" - Jagdish Patel.

I absolutely love what I do for a living! One thing that makes the day even more rewarding is having great peers/co-workers. Regardless of the situation, having peers and co-workers whom you admire, trust, and can rely on is the difference between a great day and an unpleasant day. These people are also the ones who help you get where you want to be.

Since the fourth grade, I have always wanted to teach. All of my teachers up to that point had been very good, but fourth grade social studies was my "light bulb" moment! While I can read a map and get to where I am going without incident, the road that led me here took many detours, turnarounds, and even stopping for directions.

Born and raised in Perrysburg, Ohio and a graduate of Rossford High School, I knew I was not going to attend college like many in my class. I got a job working full-time and took classes on a part time basis. From receptionist to payroll administrator I have had a variety of jobs where I have learned valuable lessons.

While working in accounting I realized that I did not want to be a number cruncher or to sit back with a monthly calendar where every day and week were the same. In between those jobs sometimes I had to waitress. I realized then I am not here to "serve" people food, but to serve them with something that would not give them a belly ache!

My very first boss taught me so much and I thank him for that. When I worked for him computers were still very new. Instead of working with Excel I worked with programs

called Lotus and Page Maker. That is when I realized I liked putting together newsletter publications and making charts and graphs. From that point on I was self-taught on the programs and software I worked with on a daily basis.

Jump ahead almost two decades (wow!) and my accomplishments are as follows: Accounting Specialist at Calphalon Cookware Corporation; Received a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration from Heidelberg College; ProMedica Health System as a Payroll Administrator for executive board members of Promedica Health System; Attended Bowling Green State University (BGSU) and received a Certification in Gerontology; Housing & Service Coordinator for Dayton Ohio Area Agency on Aging; Moved to Columbus and worked in housing for the elderly; Changed career to become a teacher; Went through the Alternative Licensure Program within the Ohio Department of Education; Became a computer teacher for the Ohio Department of Youth Services at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility, and, am currently pursuing a Master's in Education at Ashland University

Personal information:

Married with one child and 5 nieces and nephews. I love my family more than anything. I like to volunteer with various organizations such as animal shelters, humane societies, museums, and adult literacy groups. My hobbies include reading, Sudoku, helping others, gardening, IPOD, and NOT talking on the phone.

Why do I enjoy teaching? The answer is simple. I derive pleasure from helping others, which in turn helps me. Being a teacher has taught me many things about my students, about myself, and about life's priorities.