



2011 STATE RECOGNITION AWARDS

OUTSTANDING YOUNG EDUCATOR AWARD

Celina Brennan

Primary Classroom Teacher, Salnave Elementary School
Cheney Public Schools

Celina Brennan currently teaches a combination second/third grade classroom at Salnave Elementary School, actively engaging her students in their own learning. She frequently references the learning targets posted in her classroom and has established a process whereby each student self-evaluates his/her progress. The dialogue in her classroom reflects the level of responsibility that students take for their learning and the level of trust they have with each other as they share their thinking. Several forms of assessment to measure student progress are used on a regular basis.

Beyond the classroom, Celina infuses those around her with her tenacious desire to bring the art and science of teaching to new levels. Principal Deborah Maurus states that she has witnessed the impact of Celina's reflective dialogue as she explains to other educators a particular practice (such as DRA administration) and how she modified the administration to meet the needs of the students in her classroom. Her creative approach and willingness to take risks to try something new has paved the way for others to follow. Celina has provided professional development for Salnave and Cheney School District in literacy, math, writing, target walls, Descartes, data analysis, student goal setting and Math Dailies, sharing her ideas openly and with humility.

Celina has become a school district leader in the area of literacy. In the spring of 2010, Celina became part of a subcommittee dedicated to improving literacy assessment. She volunteered to pilot a new program in her classroom and to provide encouragement and staff development for district-wide implementation of the new program. Celina's effort in this endeavor has made a positive impact on literacy instruction and formative assessment for elementary children throughout Cheney School District.

Mrs. Brennan has opened her classroom to professionals from inside and outside the school district as a model of differentiated instruction that meets the social, emotional, and academic needs of all learners. Educators at all levels, including high school and middle school teachers, have remarked that Celina's skills in meeting the diverse needs of her students in a combined second and third grade classroom has provided them with a template for improving their own teaching practice.

Mrs. Brennan is a one of a kind teacher. The magnitude of her influence on the education of children is beyond her years!