



The Iris Carl Leadership and Equity Award

2006 Winner!

We are pleased to announce that the Iris Carl Leadership and Equity Award for 2006 is awarded to Guillermo Mendieta.

In this first-ever award year, we have set the bar high by selecting Guillermo Mendieta. Our awardee is an educator in the truest sense of the word. He is an activist for improved math instruction for all kids. He has worked for a decade at the community level and received the NAACP's Los Angeles Teacher of the year award while working as a math teacher in south central Los Angeles.

He has had a positive impact on people at the local level and proceeded to have his ideas accepted at



the state level where he has affected public policy. He joined The Achievement Council, a non-profit organization whose mission was to improve the academic outcomes of minority students.

Guillermo led the first statewide California conference on Mathematics and the Latino Child sponsored by CMC and has served on several advisory boards at the state and national levels. But most amazingly, when an educational injustice was about to occur, he put his whole being into fighting for his beliefs. At personal risk, he inspired belief in others, and showed a commitment that goes beyond words. The personal risk, a hunger strike, was not over textbooks, as he explained. It was to stop the Board from taking

action which would deny many Latino students access to the coursework that they needed. Non-access to these vital math courses, would established “gates” that would keep students from attending college, and thus keeping them from a better economic life. He took a personal stand to ensure that each child received a quality education in mathematics. The Board relented prior to his taking further action.

When you “Google” him, you find out the details of his actions, and the path he has taken for improving education and promoting full access to mathematics curricula. His conviction, his career path and his products and publications speak volumes about his character.

Mr. Mendieta has just had his first book published, *Pictorial Mathematics: An Engaging Visual Approach to the Teaching and Learning Mathematics*. He wrote this book primarily to help provide Limited English proficient students full access to the mathematics curriculum.

We congratulate Guillermo Mendieta on being selected the 2006 recipient of the Iris Carl Leadership and Equity Award.

Felicitaciones en este honor! Recuerdos de todos!^[GC1]

About the Award

For those of you who knew Iris Carl, you know she was a dynamite, inspiring, knowledgeable educator in a small physical package. She was a champion for a quality math education for every student. So when TODOS initiated The Iris Carl Leadership and Equity Award, it launched a quest to find an educator whose influence extends beyond the classroom, who inspires a zeal for learning, and who reaches out to the larger community to actively support “education for all”.

The award’s description reads:

The Iris Carl Leadership and Equity Award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the quality of mathematics education provided to underserved students, in particular to Latino/Hispanic students. The honoree is a mathematics educator who exhibits commitment to improving the mathematics education for all students and has made, or is making unique contributions that have impacted equity and access for underserved students. The individual’s work in improving mathematics has influenced the school, community, leaders and practitioners and its impact has been sustained.

We encourage all members who know of someone who meets the criteria to nominate that individual as a candidate for this prestigious award to be presented in 2007.

2006 Selection Committee

Gil Cuevas, Chair

Committee:

Nadine Bezuk

Carey Bolster

Rochelle Gutierrez

Noemi Lopez

James Mitchell

Maria Santos

Jean Shaw