



**2007 Arizona ELL
"Teacher of the Year"**

Nancy Scruggs
Paseo Hills Elementary School, Deer
Valley Unified School District

'Definitely a leader rather than a follower, 'consummate professional', 'dependable team player', 'respected by her peers', 'student centered in all she does' – these are highlights from letters of recommendation written in support of the 2006-2007 Arizona ELL Teacher of the Year, Nancy Scruggs.

Nancy Scruggs is a teacher of English language learners at Paseo Hills Elementary School in the Deer Valley Unified School District and has been working with ELL's for more than fourteen years. She began her career in the Washington School District which is the same district that Nancy attended in elementary school. Due to the great experiences in her elementary school, Nancy returned there as a college intern, a student teacher, and eventually, as a teacher. She worked next door to Peggy Kountz, now a colleague but formerly her first grade teacher. Her love of learning evolved from her relationship with this teacher and colleague.

As Nancy experienced a high population of English language learners in her school, she was prompted to pursue a Master's Degree in Education focusing on English as a Second Language. Nancy now holds endorsements in English as a Second Language and Early Childhood Education.

Currently, Nancy works exclusively with second language learners who are in kindergarten, first and second grade. She has also spent time teaching the parents of her students, giving them an opportunity to learn English, too. Nancy explains that helping parents gain an understanding of what their children are learning enables these parents to help their children. Additionally, for the past two summers, she has worked at Thunderbird School of Global Management teaching Pre-MBA students English pronunciation and American culture.

She has especially enjoyed teaching students of different ages. "Most students share the same eagerness to learn and delight in the realization of their achievement." This has been Nancy's experience during her teaching of English language learners.

Nancy Scruggs is a native of Arizona. She is married and has four children. Two of her children attend college and the other two are in their second year of high school in the Deer Valley School District. Each of them has been very involved in sports over the years and watching them compete or perform has been one of the highlights of Nancy's life. Nancy also enjoys gardening and traveling when time permits.