

# Catherine Woodward

Northside College Prep High School, Chicago, IL

High School Humanities Education

9th Grade World Studies, 10th-12th Grade AP

European History, and 9th-12th Grade Colloquium



2005 Honorees



“My main belief in education is that a student must experience to learn. We can not always walk the beaches of Normandy with a World War II veteran or wander San Marcos square in Venice, although I have done this with my students, so it is important to bring

the world to them. I am lucky in my school that many students come from immigrant families from all around the world so that experience comes to us through their stories and explanations. I also have traveled extensively because of my love of history and cultures so that I may share pictures and first hand accounts. When this can not be done, a world needs to be created for the students so I incorporate simulations into my learning environment. My students will have been many different characters from history throughout the year in my classroom. They will have been attorneys prosecuting or defending Mao, diplomats leading up to World War I, representatives for Sudan to the United Nations or citizens of America writing to their government about current Latin American policy.”

“Learning is best done through experience and I will use the real experience by organizing trips to the art museum, Europe or area political offices. I have written and received grants to take students on field trips to the New Hampshire primaries and to campaign in the swing state of Wisconsin. But to more realistically create that experience for all kids I use my students’ knowledge and simulation in the classroom.”

– Catherine Woodward

“Catherine’s trademark is in her ability to create a student-centered classroom in which students are both supported and challenged; she recognizes that it is her role to be a facilitator of student learning. She employs progressive and effective pedagogical methods in her classroom, particularly problem-based learning, inquiry learning, and simulations. She is exceptionally well-versed in using questioning and discussion techniques, and thus engages students in their own learning.... The mark of a Woodward-trained student is one who is independently capable to solve new learning challenges. In my estimation, that is the penultimate goal of education, and time and again, Catherine’s students achieve that goal.” – *Tim Devine, chair, Social Sciences Department, Northside College Prep High School*

#### Other Highlights:

Girls’ Tennis Coach

Model UN Advisor

Mikva Challenge Sponsor (a foundation involved in getting kids into politics and their communities)

No More Silence Sponsor (social awareness club involved in many different campaigns around the school and community)

Created a class called *D-Day to Berlin*; went to Europe through Stephen Ambrose tours with a veteran

Created a class called *Rome to Renaissance*; went to Italy for 10 days to see our learning alive

Provided service learning opportunity: trying to find the causes of crime in Chicago, kids went to prison to talk to prisoners, saw court cases, talked to police, judges, attorneys, city officials, etc. and made suggestions to Chicago’s city council

Years Teaching: 9

Average Class Size: 25

Classes Taught Per Day: 2-3

School’s Percent of ESL Students: >50

School Type: Public, Large City

Type of Class: Inclusion