

2006

Annual Report to the  
Florida Department of Education

**Juvenile Justice  
Educational Enhancement Program  
(JJEEP)**



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## 2005 Juvenile Justice Teacher of the Year **MARY ANN HARTWELL**

Dina Thompson Academy, Broward County Schools



**Hartwell was presented a plaque from the Juvenile Justice Educational Enhancement Program (JJEED) and a \$1,000 check from the Florida Department of Education (DOE) at the annual Juvenile Justice Education Institute (JJEI) conference in July.**

My teaching philosophy concerns two areas. The first is fulfilling all requirements mandated by my district, home school, and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). The second area is believing that students should learn in the most enjoyable way possible.

I teach about 10 literature units each year. Fridays are special days for my students. I've noticed over the years that my students needed to be more informed about geography, history, art, languages, food, and other cultural facts. This is the second year that I've had the activity, "Travels with Ms. Harts." After watching an educational film, the students complete a cluster map for the particular area we are studying. For example, the students write down the landmarks, the important historical dates and geographical facts, museum names, the means of transportation, special foods, and other categories. They learn basic greetings in other languages, too.

Other educational activities include "Draw a Life Map" and Survival Bingo. My students have participated in drama presentations such as "A Christmas Carol" and a play about Martin Luther King. Some of my teaching accomplishments this year relate to my students' accomplishments. We had a graduation ceremony for 12 students who earned General Educational Development (GED) diplomas while enrolled at the program. Also, my English students won first and second place in the county wide Diversity Writing Contest in Bridging the Gap: Promoting Positive Relationships Between Youth and Law Enforcement Officers.

My real work is to make the world a better place by the light and the love I give to all who meet me. Students learn more when they can bond with you. I enjoy their company, too, and they know this.

*Ms. Hartwell is a coach who is part of the game, not a spectator watching her students struggle.*  
(Supervisor's commendation)

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