

## **2010 Arizona ELL Teacher of the Year**

### **Jennifer Stults Palomino Intermediate School Paradise Valley Unified School District**



Jennifer Stults has been an elementary school teacher for 13 years, starting her career in the Madison School District at Rose Lane School and later moving to Palomino Intermediate School. Palomino Intermediate is a Title 1 school that services students in grades 4-6 with 97% of these students receiving free and reduced lunches. The school's ELL population is approximately 40%. Throughout her teaching career, Jennifer has strived to help English language learners acquire the English language; she currently teaches 4<sup>th</sup> grade basic and intermediate students.

Jennifer is a graduate of Arizona State University with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She received her Master's degree in Elementary Education from Northern Arizona University in 2000, along with her ESL endorsement. Jennifer has always immersed herself in other cultures to further her knowledge of language acquisition. She attended a summer training program in Mexico and also took a year's leave of absence to teach in Ecuador.

In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Jennifer works closely with the Palomino Intermediate Parent Teacher Association to assist their efforts in fundraising and to create a home/school partnership. She is also very involved in the after-school programs at Palomino Intermediate School and was recognized in October 2010 for "Who's Who in Arizona 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classrooms." In addition to being a full-time teacher, Jennifer regularly volunteers with the Phoenix Fire Department's Crisis Response team by providing on-scene crisis intervention and victim assistance.

Jennifer believes that every English language learner can become proficient in English through a rigorous curriculum, strong instructional strategies, and a motivating teacher who believes in his or her students. Jennifer's most rewarding teaching experiences have been with English language learners. She is a strong advocate for integrating content from a variety of curriculum areas to teach English Language Development (ELD). She has witnessed the success of the four hour model and can't imagine teaching English any other way.

Jennifer was born and raised in San Jose, California and has two wonderful parents and a younger brother. In her spare time, she loves reading, traveling, volunteering, learning Spanish, and spending time with family and friends.