



# TOP OF THE LADDER

Becoming a teacher is what I've always wanted, from the time I was six years old. Even though I was born in the United States, I was raised in Mexico and was able to master the Spanish language. My family decided that I should come back to the United States and go to school in California, starting in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, which was not easy. In 1997, I was invited to enroll in The Multilingual Teachers Academy at Garfield High School. I felt very blessed and thankful for being given the opportunity to be a part of this academy and for always receiving the support of teachers like Mrs. Cazares, who guided and motivated me to go to college. She believed in me!!! I volunteered at Fourth St. Elementary School for three years during my off-track vacation. During my first year, I discovered the many rewards of teaching. I was fortunate to work with children individually and in small groups. I enjoyed helping them learn and getting to know their individual learning styles and individual personalities. During my senior year in high school, LAUSD gave me the opportunity to continue with my education when I received a scholarship from the Career Ladder that paid for tuition and books. One of the requirements of the scholarship was to work as a teacher's assistant. Therefore, I worked as a paraeducator at Meyler Street Elementary School for over four years and had the opportunity to work in the lower grade levels, including kindergarten through second grade. It gave me the opportunity to learn about classroom management, lesson planning, and differentiated instruction. Another important aspect of the Career Ladder Scholarship was that it provided a mentor at California State University of Long Beach who was there to guide me through my college teaching career path.

Through my years of experience, I have learned that education is the most important aspect of a child's life, and teachers can play a huge role. To a child, a teacher can be their mentor, their advisor, but most importantly, their friend. This is one of the reasons that I have chosen to become a teacher. I hope my students will comprehend and develop the self-confidence they need to academically and socially perform at their best. I intend to create a learning environment that is simultaneously entertaining and effective. I want to be the teacher that children remember. I want to be that positive influence in a child's life. I want the children in my classroom to wake up and want to go to school, to want to learn.

In May 2007, I graduated from Cal State Long Beach and received a Bachelors Degree in Liberal Studies, a Teaching Credential, and a Second Degree in Chicano Latino Studies. Again, I feel that I am very blessed and thankful for having a supportive family and husband. They were my anchors and were always there for me and supported me during my college years to overcome the obstacle of being a Second Language Learner. This 2008-2009 school year will be my second year teaching at West Athens Elementary School in District 8 in a kindergarten classroom. I work at a great place where teachers care for each other and give their best to their students. I am grateful for being who I am, and for where I am now. As for my future, I always picture myself in a classroom. I understand that education is very important and I intend to continue educating myself and to go back to school for a Masters Degree in Education. BUT most importantly, I want to continue doing what I love the most, which is being a **TEACHER!!!!**

*Evelyn*

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