

CREW PROFILE



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**UNIVERSITY
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ELEMENTARY -
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University Prep Schools provides a culturally responsive educational experience for our scholars that builds that academic competence, habits of work and scholarship, and self-actualization empowering them to successfully accomplish their post-secondary plans, as well as socially and civically engaged as change agents for themselves and their community.

Please share what, or who inspired you to go into education?

When I was in the tenth grade my American Literature teacher was Pippa Porter. I was in awe of Ms. Porter and wanted my life to mimic the great experiences she shared with us about her own educational journey, the many places she had visited and how her love of literature had led her to teaching. She kept the covers of New Yorker Magazine on the cork board strips. She laughed and every lesson and each novel seemed like we were getting more and more glimpses into her life. She wasn't afraid to be herself.

How long have you been in education?

I started teaching in 1985; thirty-six years.

Please share a memorable experience during your tenure at U Prep?

My most memorable U Prep experience was watching my first group of U Prep Ellen Thompson kindergarten students walk across the stage as UPA High School graduates. In all my years of teaching, I had never been within one organization long enough to watch a group of students matriculate through the schools. I was able to connect with them during their years at both UPA Middle and UPA High School. I continued to feel a part of the journey even though I was at the very beginning.

What advice would you give a new teacher?

- Make sure your significant other is aware that you will spend some of your personal funds on "your kids."
- Keep your composite class pictures to see how you and your fashion sense have changed year to year.
- Keep the hand-written notes your students will undoubtedly give to you.
- Celebrate your birthday with your class; bring in cupcakes for everyone.
- Keep a "private stash" of your favorite candy in your desk drawer for "those days".
- Smile on the first day of school.
- Have fun. Love them. They will love you.

What activities do you enjoy in your free time?

I enjoy riding my bike, both the peloton and the standard outdoor bike, watching documentaries and baking.

Is there a philosophical saying or belief that you live by?

“Hope is that stubborn thing inside us that insists despite all evidence to the contrary that something better awaits as long as we have the courage to keep reaching, to keep working, to keep fighting.” ~Barack Obama

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