



## CORE 2010 – Participant Comments

**Veteran Teaching Scholar:** “CORE is my kickoff to school every year. After going to CORE, I feel ready to jump in and start my year rejuvenated. I love meeting with the other Golden Apple Scholars and friends to build on my current knowledge, and to prepare me to become a better teacher.”

**3<sup>rd</sup> year Teaching Scholar:** “It allowed me to meet with wonderful people; learn techniques and skills that will enhance my professionalism. I also like that I get CPDUs (Recertification Units) for attending.”

**Teacher colleague:** “Even though I am a 27-year veteran of teaching, I know that I am always learning and CORE is an ideal place to come and actually feel the excitement of new teachers & also my own excitement is renewed. It is a great tool for beginning the school year with renewed energy & ideas. I appreciate being able to come and spend time with good, positive people who are focused on working with children & who know that the learning is on-going.”

**Veteran Teaching Scholar:** “CORE is important to me because it allows time for me to connect with ‘out of this world’ teachers, to share ideas, find solutions to classroom concerns, rediscover my Golden Apple spirit and reflect on my craft as a teacher.”

**1<sup>st</sup> year Teaching Scholar:** “CORE is important to me because I wanted to refresh myself as a young teacher. With all the stress of trying to find a job, my passion for teaching sometimes got blurred. By attending CORE I was able to network as well as remember why I want to be a part of this profession.”

**2<sup>nd</sup> year Teaching Scholar:** “CORE has given me the ability to network with teachers all across the state of Illinois, which has helped validate what a difference not only what teachers are doing but how well this program is dedicated to the continuation of great teachers. I love that we get to all come together one time a year and better ourselves as teachers and encourage one another as we prepare for another year with students.”

**Jim Sorensen, Director of the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois:** “Perhaps my personal favorite is the closing ceremony at CORE, our annual professional development week at Saint Xavier for Teaching Scholars that is directed by Sister Raeleen Sweeney. On the final day of CORE we have a very nice luncheon for the Teaching Scholars (and their families) who have completed the mission of five years of service teaching in Illinois schools of need. After lunch we present each 5-year Teaching Scholar with a crystal apple. Before they come to the podium to tell us about their journey, we read portions of their original essay from 9 years ago when they first applied to become a Scholar. I think this luncheon is a real affirmation of all the good that ISAC does by providing funding to develop incredibly motivated teachers and instill in each a sense of mission to deliver excellent instruction to the children who need it most.”