

Golden Apple
Success Stories
Nancy Kontney
Golden Apple Award Winner 2008



Nancy Kontney took her prodigious talent as an instructor in resource-rich schools and now applies it to students who so richly deserve, but are all-too often denied, such a level of teaching excellence. After 22 years at Grove Avenue School in Barrington, Nancy transferred to Sunny Hill Elementary School in Carpentersville where 75 percent of the students are Hispanic and 45 percent are English-language learners. And didn't speak a word of Spanish. In less than a year, however, Nancy learned enough about the culture of her students and their parents to communicate and form strong bonds with them.

Talking to Nancy, you learn that she always wanted to be a teacher. She combines confidence with a strong will and simply does not take no for an answer. There is no room for "I can't" in Nancy's classroom. Through fun, humor and tremendous energy, she sets the tone for student success. Anyone who visits Nancy's classroom and watches her interact with students can see her passion for teaching.

Golden Apple honored Nancy as the first teacher from Kane County to receive the Golden Apple Award for personifying superior teaching and for bringing her courage and devotion to students in a school with a significant number of minority and English as a Second Language students.

"I want the children in every class I have ever had the privilege to teach to feel good about themselves and to believe that they can do anything they set out to. I feel that if a child knows I care we can conquer anything. That's why I can be found with my class on a Saturday afternoon at the local movie theatre or hosting the traditional Kontney picnic at my home on the last day of school."