

Nominee: Dr. Pamela Stephens
Category: Arts Educator

Dr. Pamela Stephens deserves recognition because of her caring attitude and considerable knowledge in her field of art education at NAU. Pam has always been there for her students. As we all have said before, she makes us feel as if we are her one and only student.

She has given us all the tools needed to become great teachers in our own right, and has, which I feel is most important, given us the encouragement and confidence to continue to become the best teachers we can be. Pam has always made herself available to help guide us through our schooling and our own personal doubts as we take our journey to having our first classroom someday. There have been times when we had thought we were not ready to leave her classroom, but she would always makes us aware of all the things we have learned in her classroom, and our goals we have set for ourselves. Pam has been active in writing several books throughout her career as a teacher. Many of these books are aimed at the younger art student, to learn about various master artists. Through her books, Pam has given these students the tools to learn about art through history, critical thinking, aesthetics, and interpretation as they read about Warhol, Picasso, and others. This gives these students an advantage, by becoming better students in other subject areas as well.

Pam has written several educational resources. Students throughout the country have benefited from her books, videos, and posters associated with art, as they learn interpretive, analytic and the interconnections through art. As we enter a classroom, the art posters on the wall may have been created by Pam, herself. She is always thinking and working on new ideas in which to allow the student to learn about art in creative and thought provoking ways, while enriching the minds of students and teachers alike.

As a teacher, you know you have touched the lives of your students when your students stay in communication with you after moving on to teach their own students. Pam is one of those teachers. She still talks to several of her former students, some of whom are now teaching overseas. Pam manages to be as available to them, as she is with us. She allows us to know how they are, as they become successful teachers, or their struggles in the classroom, giving us the resources to become better teachers. I know I will be able to count on her when I need advise in my own classroom. I can not thank Pam enough for all she has done to help us grow to be the best teachers we can become.

Please visit this website for more information on Pam and to read an article written about Pam's dedication to her students:

<http://home.nau.edu/about/profiles/profiles/?uid=stephens&cat=achiever>

