

## Goodwill Education Center Teacher Honored by Teachers R Heroes

It is not often that Dianna Marlar's class is interrupted by outside influences. Her classroom is a place where students feel safe and free to be themselves. All of a sudden, the classroom door opens and in walks a 6 foot 6 inch mascot that resembles a giant fox followed by a group of strangers bearing gifts. This was the scene this month when the Teachers R Heroes ensemble came to award Dianna Marler as their newest honoree. Students and teacher alike were surprised and pleased that this celebration came to their school.

The nomination written and sent to the committee was intelligently complimentary of this teacher's character and ability in the classroom. The nominator wrote, "Mrs. Marler is an extraordinary teacher who goes out of her way to help her students. She currently teaches an English language course, peer counseling, and an automotive class. But it's not the subject matter that she teaches that makes her special... it is her sincerity and concern for her students. Mrs. Marler works to empower students through peer counseling, unity forum, and any other opportunity that arises. As one student put it, "She gives me a place to be myself and teaches me to love/help others.

By treating all of her students with dignity and respect, Mrs. Marler creates an environment where the students feel physically and emotionally safe. She sets high expectations, listens without judgment, offers them hope and encouragement in spite of their circumstances, and provides them a sense of consistency. She does not judge... she accepts. Her students know that they can turn to Mrs. Marler for help or advice on any topic – school, home or personal – without exception 24/7, and that she can be trusted. Her room is a haven where they feel free to be themselves and to open up.

Through peer counseling and the unity forum she holds several times a year, she strives to empower the students and encourages them to treat others with compassion and respect. She helps the students with self-esteem issues and helps them to work through problems. Mrs. Marler works hard to show the students that they can be somebody. She is an exceptional teacher."

The "Teachers are Heroes" program is sponsored by Victor Valley College and Eldorado Broadcasting. School participation is coordinated through San Bernardino County Schools. Participating businesses and agencies include Little Caesars Pizza, La Casita Restaurant, Vitelli's Deli, Reed Foods, Victorville Speed Wash, Ultra Star Theaters, Horace Mann-Robert Stephanian, Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt and the Daily Press.

Teacher nominations may be submitted in the form of 500 words-or-less essays to [www.KATCOUNTRY1007.com](http://www.KATCOUNTRY1007.com), [www.Y102FM.com](http://www.Y102FM.com), [www.TheFox106.com](http://www.TheFox106.com), [www.Talk960.com](http://www.Talk960.com), or [www.vvc.edu](http://www.vvc.edu), or [www.vvc.edu](http://www.vvc.edu). Nominations may also be sent by mail to Victor Valley College, Teachers are Heroes, 18422 Bear Valley Road, Victorville, CA 92395, attention Dr. Lori Kildal.