

Susana Flores teaches Biology in Galveston, Texas

Susana's profile:

Hometown: Los Angeles, California

Major at TAMUG: Marine Biology, 2008

Why did you choose a career in teaching? Growing up in a minority neighborhood in South-Central Los Angeles was not easy. The people that made it possible for me to believe that a college degree was possible were my teachers. I feel that now it is my turn to give back, and Galveston is definitely a place that I can help.

Number of years in classroom: first year is this year

My School: Ball HS, Galveston ISD

Extracurricular sponsorships/coaching assignments: None, YET!

How I motivate my students to learn: I make them see the possibilities in everything they think and do. I feel my positivity getting to them, and whether it's annoying or inspiring them, I'm getting through. The students have waves of questions on careers in science when I talk about research and college. Though sometimes it deviates from the lesson, I answer many of them with the hope that they'll have an interest in the future when it comes time to apply to college.

My educational philosophy: Fill the void. There is always something lacking in my kids, whether it's positivity, drive, discipline, respect, love, nurturing, identity...I feel it is the job of the teacher to help the student along the path of self discovery and development as a person. Sometimes teachers are the only chance students have. Although they can have VERY strange ways of showing gratitude, including foul language and anger, they will realize what you're doing, and thank you for your efforts in the end.

My long term career goals: Unsure at this point.

Favorite part of my job: Interacting with students

Least favorite part of my job: Negative teachers

Last book I read: *The Tale of Despereaux*, by Kate DiCamillo

My Hobbies: Reading, movies, video games, music, animals, and sports.