



Iris Carl Awardee, Harriet Haynes and Miriam Leiva

Miriam announcing Harriet as winner of
TODOS Iris Carl Leadership and Equity Award

For decades, our honoree has been a fierce fighter for equity, whose teaching, supervising, and other professional work, have exemplified the TODOS mission and goals. We have known this person for many years through NCTM and NCSM conferences, other organizations at all levels as well as committees, and publications - and valued the wealth of knowledge, experience, professionalism, and dedication to mathematics education students inherent in this individual. However, it was not until our friend joined TODOS as a charter member in April 2003 that we learned how much this colleague was doing for equity in classrooms in a large city school district – a path that led to influencing and informing others at the state and national level. Here is a brief summary of the many contributions for which this member is being honored:

As a middle grades teacher in a large urban district, the honoree worked to bring down the walls blocking students' success. For most of the professional life this person taught middle grades mathematics to mostly Latino and African American students in Title 1 schools. From stories we hear from colleagues, we learn that this individual went to “bat” for students that were placed in remedial classes because they did not know the language or the school environment or came from a different family culture- because, and I quote: “... when they come from another country and culture, they also come from another academic environment and everything is a barrier for them.” Here is a real teacher experiencing & dealing successfully what we in TODOS support for all students and their teachers.

After years of classroom teaching, she became a math supervisor in her district, dealing with similar issues and helping the teachers in the techniques, strategies that worked for her. One of them, Mrs. Caraballo, wrote: “I think I speak for all the 6th grade teachers when I say that she really made it worth going the extra

mile in teaching. She assured me that there are people out there besides the children and their parents who truly appreciate what is done in the classroom.”

She was promoted to the highest position at the school district in mathematics supervision where she was able to make a difference in policies and practices as well. In subsequent years she kept returning to the classroom and to and from supervision. She continues to work as a Mentor in the schools in her district.

The N Y State Math Supervisor, Dr. Fred Paul, wrote about her work with developing state tests: “Her help was irreplaceable. I will always be extremely grateful for her continued help with state assessment in math.”

The following was said about her when she received another award in New York: “One of the interesting things about the honoree is that she is professionally active to the point of being *insane*. She was simultaneously president of her local math association, NCSM Newsletter reporter, writer, and editor, NCSM Secretary, member of NCTM’s Instructional Affairs Committee, Program Chairperson of the NCTM Regional Conference in her city, attending graduate school on weekends, a math supervisor during the day, and at night teaching math to teamster housing department caretakers who wanted to become heating plant technicians.”

Insane? Yes! But what about her teaching these workers of heating plants? Our honoree is certainly the only one among us to have passed the state exam and holds the license to operate and maintain a 15 lb. pressure hot water boiler. Technicians are the professionals who make sure that there is appropriate heat and hot water in public housing projects twenty four hours of every day, our awardee wanted to learn about their mathematical needs so she could teach them. So she learned and took the exam herself, and passed, in preparation to teach those seeking the license for their jobs.

She is one of seven founders of the Benjamin Banneker Association (BBA) and one that continues her commitment to equity through work in the BBA over the years - As well as through significant contributions and efforts in TODOS.

She is also a charter member of TODOS since our first TODOS meeting in 2002-3 and has worked diligently “outside the limelight” to make things happen including TODOS Long Term Planning and current program goals. She has served well in all that we have asked her to do, but most importantly, she has served in other more important ways that we did not even think of asking.

For example, for the past 5 years she has attended the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Initiative, CHCI, meetings representing TODOS, funding her own expenses, while keeping us informed of the issues and what could do about them. At a recent CHCI event, she took it upon herself to duplicate TODOS materials to distribute to the participants, and prepared questions to lead a dialogue with the group that addressed TODOS and our goals, in addition to paying her own travel

expenses to the meeting. In the past two years, at her urging, both Nora Ramirez and I have attended CHCI meetings separately and have realized the acute importance of what she has been doing and telling us. She was also instrumental in our involvement in the White House Initiative for the Education of Hispanics.

In the past few years, she also initiated another TODOS program through the Association of Teachers of Mathematics of New York City, ATMNYC, and Dr. Robert Giles of Hunter College - the host for ATMNYC meetings. She approached TODOS to ask if she could represent us at their Fall conference; as a result there has been a TODOS presence in NYC ever since 2006.

She continues to work tirelessly to be an instrument FOR equity. Yes, she has worked on our committees, has manned our exhibit tables, and so on, but she has gone above and beyond through living/breathing what our mission and vision ask of us. She is a leader who acts, supports and implements our equity vision.

For this and for her tireless efforts to be an instrument for equity, continually challenging us to do more for underserved students, TODOS presents the Iris Carl Leadership and Equity Award to Harriet Haynes.