

# Silvia Edgerton

## Silvestre S. Herrera Elementary School

*2016 Rodel Exemplary Teacher Finalist*

### **Learning from a mentor**

“ I had a mentor once tell me, "You are an advocate for your students and their families." This advice was given to me early in my career. While this statement can mean many things, I interpret it as being an advocate of the whole child. It is my responsibility to help students find their voices and the way they do that is by becoming outstanding readers, writers, scientists, and mathematicians. When students feel confident and knowledgeable, their voices will be heard.

### **Engaging students**

“ I believe that students are our greatest resource in the classroom. I develop standards-based lessons that are relevant to the students and the community. The reading assignments are carefully selected so that my students can relate to what they are reading. Students write about their lives before writing about things that are foreign to them. The classroom is alive with conversations about their thinking, their discoveries and their interpretation of the world. When students are able to create their own understandings they are much more engaged in the learning process.

### **A tip for new teachers**

“ I want new teachers to know that they are a conductor of a great orchestra and at the end of the day they will make beautiful music together. I want them to know that each child is an instrument that can play the most beautiful music and it is up to them to draw that out every single day. I want them to know that students are eager and ready to learn and preparation is critical.



**Silvia Edgerton**  
Silvestre S. Herrera Elementary School

Phoenix Elementary District

Fifth grade

**Experience:** Thirty-two years in education including six years as a fifth-grade teacher, eight years as a third-grade teacher, ten years in a primary multi-age classroom, three years as a sixth-grade teacher, and five years in administration; recently served on the District ELA and math curriculum committees

**Degrees:** B.A. in Elementary Education from Arizona State University; M.A. in Educational Leadership; Principal Certificate; Reading Endorsement; Bilingual Endorsement

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**The Rodel Exemplary Teacher Initiative honors extraordinary teachers and asks that they each mentor high-potential student teachers.**

What sets the program apart from typical student teaching programs is that mentor teachers are selected based on their outstanding student achievement in high-need schools, their ability to mentor new teachers, and the recommendation of their principals and Rodel's observation team. This ensures that student teachers are learning from the best. In addition, Rodel provides further training and support to both mentors and student teachers to assure Promising Student Teacher Graduates start their careers as outstanding educators.

Since 2004, 167 Rodel Exemplary Teachers have been named and more than 650 Rodel Promising Student Teachers have been mentored.

**The 2016 Rodel Exemplary Teachers will be announced on November 29 at [www.rodelaz.org](http://www.rodelaz.org).**