

Philosophy of Teaching

For teachers, real creativity begins when standards are high. Keeping standards high gives credence to the idea that all children can learn.



I believe that young people still get excited about learning. They are excited if I am still excited. I always learn from my students; each can learn, and each deserves to learn.



What I have to teach is not like some golden goblet which only the chosen may touch. What I have to teach is more like the contents of a shoe store. There is something for everyone, and everyone is encouraged to try on many pairs and take away a bagful. If you don't see anything you like, we will keep opening boxes until you do.



By being engaged in social action projects and civic problem-solving, children develop life-long "habits of the heart," become literate in the vocabulary of their community and learn that process and collaboration are as important as achieving the goal.



Doreen Uhas Sauer has taught in the Columbus City Schools for 35 years. She began her career in education at Indianola Middle School in 1969. Since 1988, she

has been a history and English teacher at Fort Hayes Arts and Academic High School.

Community learning is the hallmark of her teaching. An advocate for urban students, she encourages them to achieve academically and to look for opportunities to serve others. She herself is their best role model, as she actively engages in efforts to improve quality of life, the community's historical/architectural character and K-12 education. She lives, shops and gardens in the urban neighborhoods served by her school.

A life-long learner, her studies have included astronomy, geology, German language and literature, English, history, political science and art history. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees from The Ohio State University and has pursued doctoral work in the Renaissance and Reformation history at OSU.

2003

Ohio Teacher of the Year



"Teachers are more important in the education of a child than textbooks or technology. The latter two are only tools. The first one is the toolmaker."

— Uhas Sauer



International Background and Teaching

Ohio's 2003 Teacher of the Year is a first generation American. Her father grew up in Prussia. Her mother lived and worked in the Hungarian and Polish coal mining communities of western Pennsylvania.

Doreen grew up on the west side of Cleveland in a neighborhood filled with Italians, Czechs, Russians, Lithuanians, and Latvians – hard-working people, most of whom had fled homelands in the early years of European fascism.

Doreen's parents were largely self-taught. Her father's education ended when he was 14, and her mother was forced to leave school at the age of 10 to help care for younger children. They encouraged their daughter to pursue the noble profession of teaching.

During her 35-year career, Doreen has continued to be a learner, as well as a teacher.

Her pursuit of knowledge included additional course work at Smith College, Brown University and Columbia University and study at the University of Salzburg. She also has been a presenter and teacher trainer in Poland, the Ukraine and Lithuania for The Ohio State University's Center for Civic Education.

Doreen Uhas Sauer

Through the eyes of her colleagues...

"She is a consummate professional - admired for her organizational skills, her professional integrity and her positive commitment to the education of our future leaders."

"She is a master teacher who is articulate and represents the best in education. She serves as a role model for current and future teachers."

"By connecting students to real-life situations, she links the classroom and the community."

"She has a knack for engaging even the least motivated students in her classroom, and they never forget her."

"Doreen's extensive knowledge and experience make for exciting lessons; she is creative and funny. Students love her anecdotes of Columbus history."

"She leads not just by words, but by example – a community advocate like I have never seen before."

Community Involvement and Recognitions

- Educational program developer and coordinator, Columbus Landmarks Foundation (Urban Safari, Magical Medieval Tour, Ghost House Tour, Forbidden City), 1985-1997.
- Past president, University Area Commission, City of Columbus, 1981-present.
- Past president, University District Organization, 1985 – present.
- Photo archivist for a book on Columbus history published by the Chamber of Commerce and the Columbus Historical Society.
- Author of 25 lessons on Columbus history for use in Columbus City Schools fourth-grade classes.
- Columbus Area Leadership Award, 1991.
- Pavey Award for Leadership in the University community, The Ohio State University, 1993.