

**February 2012
Employee of the Month
for
New Learning Resources School District**



Martin Naffziger, MEd, Academic Director & English teacher, New Summit Academy

Martin has been teaching English at NSA since July 2006, and in August 2008, he took over as Academic Director at NSA. In addition to teaching four hours of English classes a day, directing the Academic Department, and serving on 13 student Individual Goal Planning teams, he has somehow managed to find time to complete a Master of Education degree and a certificate in college counseling from UCLA in the past two years! Martin's Masters degree was earned in Global Studies in Education from the University of Illinois which recognizes that our world is increasingly inter-connected and that educators must extend their knowledge of the world in order to prepare students for this globalized reality. The master's focuses on methods for teachers to do so from the macro-, policy-level to everyday practices in the classroom.

Rather than write up a summary that may or may not describe his amazing contributions to our school, a few teachers submitted their own testimonials:

Martin is a super organized person who always gives the help that one needs. I personally have learned so much from him because he has helped me to find solutions in educational methodology and has given me great ideas that I can implement in my class. In addition to being a person of great values, he is a gentleman, friendly, and above all a collaborator. *–Advanced Spanish teacher*

Martin is a very professional person in addition to being a compassionate director. He is a very gentlemanly leader and his respect for all, his organization, capabilities, and much more make him a joy to work with. *–Beginning Spanish teacher*

Martin has a calm and collected leadership style, and he creates clear expectations and high standards while motivating the teachers with amazing creativity, humor, and organization. He is a mentor in every sense of the word, and his optimism and energy balanced with practicality and a great work ethic make him a valuable team member. *–Psychology teacher*

Even more than a great leader, Martin is an excellent teacher and a great person. His leadership has prepared us for any challenge that we have faced so far, and the confidence that he projects to the rest of the department is amazing. But above everything else is his ability to show great creativity; when it comes to problem-solving or making the classroom a more engaging place for our students... that is what makes him outstanding. *–Science teacher.*

Martin is very observant and consistent in giving genuine, positive regard to teachers when it is earned. He models well the role of a member of the academic team. His positive energy in the mornings plays a necessary part in setting a stage for overall successful academic performance by the NSA students on a daily basis. *–Math teacher*

Martin has worked tirelessly to make New Summit Academy a cutting-edge educational environment for students with unique talents and passions. He leads teachers in coming up with creative and integrated ways to keep our students active in the spirit of Multiple Intelligences—reflecting, working in groups, understanding the “why” of learning, keeping our bodies active along with our minds and spirits, and integrating the arts and music every step of the way. Most recently, Martin spearheaded a technology proposal to incorporate iPads into the classroom in order that NSA stay abreast of recent technological advances in education. Beginning in January, 2012, NSA will be implementing the system to incorporate digital textbooks, real-time sharing, editing, and feedback, and the diverse range of educational apps available to help students with special needs in multi-modal learning and organizational skills. Thank you, Martin, for your energy and time in helping New Learning Resources district fulfill its mission of providing a quality education for every student!