

Art DeFilippo, M.Ed.

email: adefilip@msn.com

My professional career in education has bridged two continents. I have been a teacher in South America at the International Cooperative School in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, a teacher in a rural one-room schoolhouse, a teacher in a large urban school, an instructor for future teachers at the University of Arizona, an instructor for future administrators at the University of Phoenix, a curriculum consultant in a large urban school district, an acting superintendent, and a principal of four elementary schools.

These valuable experiences have enabled me to develop unique professional skills. As a teacher of regular and special needs students, undergraduate students and graduate students, I have developed an extensive understanding of the curriculum, including instructional strategies that result in student learning. In the role of Community Services Ombudsperson, I became intimately familiar with the district's legal obligations. That understanding, coupled with my knowledge of child development and educational needs, enabled me to analyze a myriad of situations, identify viable solutions and implement necessary action in support of students and families. This position also provided me with an intensive middle and high school perspective as well as an appreciation of the need for collaboration with state, county and community agencies and organizations in the successful placement of students.

During my service as Principal of Coronado K-8 School, and Helen Keeling Elementary School, I became acutely aware of the many contributing factors and early indicators of school success and failure. Working collaboratively with teachers, parents, students, district staff and community members was essential to ensuring student success.

As Principal of Jefferson Park Elementary, I was provided with the opportunity, through leadership, to implement and strongly influence the development of instructional and alternative programs. Some examples of student and staff programs include professional development programs to improve classroom instructional practices, and new reading and math programs.

Currently, as Principal of Davidson Elementary, I have had the opportunity to work closely with local and state officials in building the districts first Green/LEED (Leaders in Energy and Environmental Design) Certified School. I have also had the opportunity to be involved with district-wide budgeting, data collection and analysis and new program evaluation for grants. We received a million dollar grant to build a Bird & Butterfly Botanical Garden. Our school's programs have been recognized nationally on radio and TV for the innovative and successful improvements we've made to our community.

My broad range of professional experiences and expertise in program development, curriculum alignment, technology, new school construction, budgeting, and staff development is readily applicable to an international school setting.