

# WHO'S MAKING A SPLASH IN OUR SCHOOLS THIS MONTH?

## APRIL FEATURED SPLASH GRANT TEACHER



Renee McElwain, early childhood educator at Washington Early Childhood Center, Unit 116 Schools.

**Renee McElwain** is an early childhood educator at Washington Early Childhood Center in Urbana. Her goal is to broaden her young students' awareness and interest in music as well as in the diverse cultures of the children and families that are part of the Washington Early Childhood community. Renee believes the best way to do this is to give the students a "hands-on" experience. The concept of "the world" is very difficult for young children to grasp, so she plans to bring "the world" into the classroom in the form of musical instruments from around the world. Her CUSF Splash Grant has allowed Renee to purchase a variety of flutes, shakers, drums, bells and tambourines from countries such as Africa, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia and Chile. She will be combining the instruments with maps, books, videos, audio recordings and family involvement to pique their interest and inspire learning.

**CONGRATULATIONS, RENEE McELWAIN!**

## APRIL 2009 AWARD WINNERS

Shelley Altenbaumer, Edison Middle School, Unit 4  
Mary Biddle, Edison Middle School, Unit 4  
Leslie McClintock, Urbana Middle School, Unit 116  
Kim Anderson, Jefferson Middle School, Unit 4  
Carolyn Dalenberg, Jefferson Middle School, Unit 4  
Ashley Hackstadt, Special Education, Urbana School District, Unit 116  
April Keaton, Centennial High School, Unit 4  
Brandon Sethi, Urbana Middle School, Unit 116  
Jane Stillman, Central High School, Unit 4  
Gwen Coffey, Dr. Howard Elementary School, Unit 4  
Will Aldridge, Central High School, Unit 4  
Sara Goldshlack, Urbana Middle School, Unit 116  
Rhonda Young, Stratton Elementary School, Unit 4  
Angelica Franklin, Urbana High School, Unit 116  
David Mast, Franklin Middle School, Unit 4  
Sharon Stewart, Dr. Howard Elementary School, Unit 4  
Lauren Heckelman, B.T. Washington Elementary School, Unit 4  
Michael Martin, Urbana High School, Unit 116  
Natasha Haroff, Franklin Middle School, Unit 4  
Patty Pearson, Westview Elementary School, Unit 4  
Mary Beth Norris, Yankee Ridge Elementary School, Unit 116  
Bethany Thompson, Southside Elementary School, Unit 4  
Carol Wood, Westview Elementary School, Unit 4  
Liz Lynch, Yankee Ridge Elementary School, Unit 116  
Erin Uppinghouse, Stratton Elementary School, Unit 4  
Stephanie Middendorf, Carrie Busey Elementary School, Unit 4  
Tony Howard, Edison Middle School, Unit 4  
Stephanie Lehman, Yankee Ridge Elementary School, Unit 116  
Nicole Panska, Barkstall Elementary School, Unit 4  
Diane Fischer, Robeson Elementary School, Unit 4  
Lindsey Little, Jefferson Middle School, Unit 4  
Diane Kearney, Jefferson Middle School, Unit 4  
Dorothy LaVanti, Carrie Busey Elementary School, Unit 4

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