

## **Lena Eddings**

Ms. Eddings holds a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University South Carolina and a Secondary Education License through the University of New Mexico. Prior to beginning her teaching career in Albuquerque, Ms. Eddings worked as a Civil Engineer in Lubbock, Texas; and Sumpter, South Carolina; and as a consultant for environmental clean-up at Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque, NM.

Currently Ms. Eddings is a Physics Instructor, and Science Department Chairperson at La Cueva High School in Albuquerque, NM. Ms. Eddings states her classroom objectives --- To promote a challenging and thought-provoking learning environment giving students the problem-solving skills that will inspire them to be inquisitive and push outside of their comfort zone to further their knowledge and life experiences.

At La Cueva High School Ms. Eddings has served on the school-wide instructional Council, and the district-wide team to adopt the Next Generation Science Standards. She has been recognized as an influential staff member and one who has made a difference in academic achievement by graduating seniors annually since 2014.

In the words of her nominator:

(Ms. Eddings) has a unique teaching style: making her class not only informative but also proving that humor can help students learn better. Mrs. Eddings provides one-on-one support and meets students where they are in terms of their style of learning. She explains everything thoroughly in many different ways (lectures, lab demos, videos and modern multi-media shows). She is very genuine in the way she interacts with kids. She is very understanding; and even though she holds to a high standard of classroom etiquette, she is very supportive when a student needs support. Mrs. Eddings is open to allowing students to discuss topics beyond the planned lesson, especially as they pertain to real-world applications. Her engineering background provides her with an invaluable perspective into how to teach the students to be problem-solvers well beyond the Physics. Mrs. Eddings treats students with a high level of respect; and she is genuinely interested in their opinions. ....This year's COVID-19 pandemic and concomitant restriction from in-person teaching has created extraordinary challenges for teachers, especially science teachers who cannot have students in their laboratories. In this very challenging situation, I have observed the tremendous extra efforts that Mrs. Eddings took to ensure optimal learning experience for her students.