

# Winners never quit: Hillcrest's Kelley LCSD Teacher of the Year

By Satenik Sargsyan | Posted: Monday, November 7, 2011 1:15 am

Winners never quit, and quitters never win: The famous saying never fails Jalyn Kelley, a local elementary school teacher who was named the 2010-11 Logan City School District teacher of the year.

Kelley, a fourth-grade teacher at Hillcrest Elementary School, holds the saying as a motto both in life and in her classroom.

"It's really easy to stop trying, and kids, unfortunately, stop trying sometimes - especially in today's society where everyone is like 'I want it right now,'" Kelley said. "But in life things don't come right now."

It is important for Kelley, someone who has had to overcome many obstacles in life, to teach her students not only the newly adapted Singapore math strategies but also persistence and the necessity to always push forward.

After her husband died about 17 years ago, Kelley was put on the spot to re-evaluate life and come up with ways to sustain her family.

One of the main challenges was going back to college.

Kelley dropped out of Utah State University as a junior when she got married, and although she has now lived all over the country, she never lived close to any universities or colleges where she could finish her education.

When she had to make a decision, the former dietetics student - and then a widow with two children - chose teaching.

"I've been teaching at church and other places for a long time," she said. "I taught aerobics, crafts, started my own business," she said.

And ever since Kelley received her degree in education from Eastern Oregon University - where she lived at the time - and got a teaching position close to family at Hillcrest Elementary, the profession has allowed her to maintain a healthy balance between family and work.

"Teaching is one of those professions that could give you fulfillment in ways that are unique and better than just monetary reasons," Kelley said. "People who teach, teach because they want to teach and want children be successful."

Marshal Garrett, the school's superintendent said Kelley's classroom is inspiring.

"She is great," he said. "What she does for the children is truly inspiring."

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