

## **Outstanding Alum 2010-Verde Valley: Barbara U'Ren, '84-87, General Studies**

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**Years Attended:** 1984-87

**Area of Study:** Education

**Email:** buren@cocsd.k12.az.us



Barbara U'ren received the President's Outstanding Alumni Award 2010 at the "Evening of Recognition" - April 22, 2010 in Clarkdale. She was nominated by our own Julie Larson, a member of Greater Verde Valley Foundation for Yavapai College.

Barbara U'Ren is currently Superintendent of Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District #6. She exemplifies the successful graduate of Yavapai College. After raising three beautiful daughters, Barbara returned to school to earn her teaching certificate. Barbara realized her love of teaching when she started volunteering in her daughters' school. Dave Osborn, Principal of Oak Creek School at the time, immediately saw that Barbara had the unique characteristics of an inspired teacher. He encouraged her to attend Yavapai College and then continue at NAU. Barbara worked as an instructional aide and as a school library technician while earning her degree. She successfully taught primary and intermediate grade levels while continuing her education to earn her Master's Degree and later her administrative credential. Barbara soon became a school Principal, Assistant Superintendent and is presently Superintendent of Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District.

Barbara continues to be a positive role model for all students, especially those women who return to school later in life. She recently said "The College has been very good for me. I had outstanding instructors and outstanding support. Yavapai College works magic with people coming back with much trepidation to the educational system." She models life-long learning as she continues to work on her Doctorate. Yavapai

College gave Barbara U'Ren her start in higher education and she truly appreciates the many opportunities that have been accorded her.

There are many organizations through which Barbara gives many hours of service to her community. Her community work includes serving as a Board Member on the Yavapai County Education Foundation, the Northern Arizona Healthcare's Advisory Board - Fit Kids of Arizona, and the Yavapai County Educational Technology Consortium. She also gives generously as an active member of Kiwanis.

Julie was honored to make this nomination for the President's Outstanding Alumni Award for Yavapai College, and Barbara glowed and replied, "It was very nice to be honored by the college."