

Erica's Story: First California Student Now in College

Kathy Presnell-Best, Reading Recovery Teacher, Riverside Unified School District, Riverside, California

The first year for Reading Recovery in California was 1991–1992. California State University at San Bernardino was the site, and Riverside Unified School District sent me to be the first teacher from Longfellow Elementary School. Erica Tenorio and I were the first in California to go behind the glass. Her parents brought her to the university campus. Erica had been one of the lowest students in her first-grade class, but she discontinued at Level 12 midyear—even with my newly learned, shaky skills. She moved to a solid Level 16 by the end of the year with her classroom teacher.

As she continued to University Heights Middle School and John W. North High School, Erica participated in the Advancement Via Individual Determination program for 4 years and the International Baccalaureate program for one year. She is currently enrolled in the University of

California at Riverside as a liberal studies (Spanish) major and an education minor. Soon she hopes to be a teacher.



Parent Voices

Michael “Blossomed” With Reading Recovery

My son Michael was one of the first children at Warren Elementary to be served in the Reading Recovery program. I am writing this letter to express what a blessing it has been for Michael to have had this experience. His mother and I have seen an enormous amount of growth in Michael's reading and writing this year. During his weeks in Reading Recovery, he has blossomed.

Michael McNeal, Sr.
Parent of Michael McNeal, Jr.
Warren Elementary School
Warren County, Kentucky

Above, top: Erica Tenorio, now enrolled in University of California at Riverside, was a Reading Recovery student during 1991–1992. She is pictured here at her high school commencement ceremony in 2003.

Above, bottom: Erica Tenorio, first grade.