

Steve Zimmer is a 16 year veteran teacher, counselor, advocate and community activist. His work on innovative classroom programs, service learning, school-based intervention services, community organizing and school community relations is known throughout the city. Throughout his career, Steve has redefined the meaning of teacher and counselor as he has worked to increase student graduation rates and foster family stability.

Steve Zimmer joined Teach For America in 1992. After completing his summer student teaching at Jefferson High School, Steve was placed as an ESL Teacher at Marshall High School in Silver Lake. In the 16 years Steve has taught at Marshall, his name has become synonymous with progressive programs that benefit Marshall families. First as a classroom innovator, Steve piloted experiential learning with his adolescent English Learners. Linking public service with civic understanding, Steve led his students on several trips to Washington D.C. as well as to City Hall and the State Capital. In 1998, Steve founded Marshall's Multilingual Teacher Career Academy that served later served as an early model for LAUSD's Career Ladder Teacher Academy programs.

In 1995, Steve created Marshall's Public Service program. Under Steve's leadership public service and service learning was woven into the fabric of the Marshall student experience. In the over ten years that he led the program, Steve built relationships with over 100 elementary schools, community based organizations, hospitals, health clinics, libraries and recreation centers. During that time, Marshall students planted over 500 trees, repainted more than a thousand miles of graffiti covered walls and volunteered in over 5,000 elementary classrooms.

Steve has been a passionate advocate for the most at risk students in the Marshall community. In 1999, working with a fellow Marshall teacher and the Healthy Starts program, Steve founded the Comprehensive Student Support Center (CSSC). In partnership with the Asian Pacific Health Care Venture, the CSSC provides comprehensive health services for Marshall Students and their families. Steve runs the mental health and intervention programs at the CSSC. Through collaborations with 10 local agencies, the CSSC provides some of the most extensive school-based mental health and substance abuse intervention services in the district.

Steve's work on service learning and intervention at Marshall led him to the Elysian Valley community. Working with two elementary teachers and families

in the community, Steve helped to create the Elysian Valley United Community Services Center (CSC) a community owned and operated agency that provides a continuation school program, an after school program, recreation and enrichment programs for students and families in the community. The CSC is housed in a former sweatshop that also provides a community library, an internet radio station and a computer lab with the only free internet access in the neighborhood. Serving as Elysian Valley United's Family Services Director, Steve has also brought counseling and intervention services for families in need at the CSC. Elysian Valley United is an entirely volunteer organization and all programs are free to members of the community.

Steve has also been an active member of the Marshall School Community serving on School Based Management for 7 years. He is a long time supporter of immigrant rights and progressive labor in Los Angeles. Steve was the founder and leader of a teacher's group that led opposition to Proposition 187 and supported efforts like the historic Justice for Janitors Strike in 2000. From 1998-2003 Steve served as Council District 13's representative on the commission that oversees LA's Community Development Department.

Throughout his career, Steve has been honored for his work with children and their families. In 1998, he received the Angels over Los Angeles Award from LA's Commission of Children, Youth and their Families. In 1999, Steve received the Carino Award from El Centro Del Pueblo. In 2003, he received the Jackie Goldberg Public Service Award from the LACER Foundation. In 2006, Steve was honored by Goucher College in Baltimore as the Distinguished Alumni.