

Retirement beckons assistant superintendent Pat Miller

When the new school year begins, longtime Chino Valley Unified School District educator and administrator Pat Miller expects to be looking at trees change color on the East Coast.

After 39 years in education, Miller, assistant superintendent of educational services, is retiring this month (July) so she can spend more time enjoying family, touring America and Europe, sailing, pursuing hobbies of woodcraft and card making, and walking with her longtime friend, retired CVUSD administrator Joanie Webster.

Miller had planned to work one more year so she could make it to her 40th year in education, but her husband Dave, a retired architect and financial planner, convinced her that 39 was a good number too.

"I really thought I'd go one more year," Miller said. "...I just enjoyed working."

She's also enjoyed the laughter and hugs her students have given her over the years. "Kids keep you young," Miller said. "Maybe that's the best thing about teaching."

A Chino resident for 41 years, she said former students and parents still single her out when they spot her at the grocery store or some other local spot. She attributes this familiarity with her philosophy to be very visible on the campuses where she has taught or been an administrator, to interact with students so they can see they are cared for, and to develop a relationship with parents.

She has had the pleasure of mentoring students, teachers, and parents in her 39 years with the district. "Education is a great profession; it is a great career," she said. "I've always been able to find the best in people and get them to give their best." Her advice to young educators is "stay with it, don't give up."

She's hired many of her former students as teachers. "What a great testament that is for the profession," Miller said.

Known for her outgoing personality and energy, she has earned the nickname "Energizer Bunny" from most of the school secretaries she has worked with over the years.

Miller began substitute teaching CVUSD in February 1976. Later that year, she was hired as a seventh/eighth grade science teacher at Magnolia Junior High in Chino. She soon earned her reading credential and began teaching reading at Magnolia in fall 1977.

In 1985, she was named assistant principal at Cortez Elementary School in Chino, and in 1987 she was appointed assistant principal at Gird Elementary School in Chino.

In 1988, she was appointed principal at Glenmeade Elementary School in Chino Hills. She accepted the same post at Butterfield Ranch Elementary School in Chino Hills in 2001, and was named principal of Dickey Elementary School in Ontario in 2007.

She was named to her present position in 2009 and has been working at the district office in Chino.

Miller was also one of the first four women admitted to the Chino Rotary Club. She was later named its first female president.