

## Shannon Burgess

### Background:

Shannon Burgess was born and raised in Sacramento, California. After graduating from the University of California, Davis, with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design, she went to work for Macy's department store, eventually becoming the first sign team coordinator for the two Downtown Sacramento stores. It was while working at Macys that she realized that she missed working with children and decided to pursue a credential in Early Childhood Education. After attaining the Site Supervisor credential, she continued working with children in various capacities. Having successful interactions with students as an academic tutor, she was then offered the Visual Art teaching position with the United Auburn Indian Community. She taught Visual Art at the private, tribal school for 12 years before relocating to Alabama.

### Teaching Philosophy

I believe that throughout childhood we all are blessed with the gift of imagination. As we are all unique individuals, we do not express imagination or creativity in the same way. I feel that as an art instructor it is part of my job to seek out that creativity, the form of expression or medium, which allows each student to express themselves in their own way. In order to achieve this, I strive to create a safe and secure environment where students feel comfortable experimenting, discussing, and collaborating while they work. Students are encouraged to openly share new thoughts and ideas, as well as challenge older concepts and techniques. My goal to provide the students a positive, challenging, and diverse lesson which draws inspiration from various cultures found throughout the world and I hope that they use the information and skills they develop in art to convey meaning, emotion, and purpose in both their artwork and their daily lives.