



## 2007 Alumni Honor Roll | Reasons to Believe



Role models who give us *Reasons to Believe* in the power of education

### Teresa Valverde Pacheco

Argentine High School, 1971

Teresa Pacheco still remembers the words of her Emerson Elementary School principal Gwendolyn Daniel. "When you do good things in life, good things will happen." This advice guides her each day.

Pacheco spends most of her free time doing "good things" for the community of Kansas City, Kansas. She serves on the boards of countless community organizations including El Centro, the Children's Museum of Greater KC, United Way of Wyandotte County, American Red Cross of Wyandotte County and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, among others. And the rewards for her good work have been many. In 1991, she received the Community Service Award from MANA, and the Outstanding Women of Colour Award from the Women of Colour Coalition. She has been honored with the Carlos F. Cortez Humanitarian Award from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Ana Riojas Leadership Award from the Midwest Latina Conference. She is the recipient of the 2007 YWCA of Greater KC Hearts of Gold award.



Since 1987, Pacheco has worked as a prevailing wage/real estate specialist for the Kansas City, Missouri School District. She said her mother influenced her to be the "best" at everything she tried and emphasized to her the importance of serving her community. The support of her husband Captain Carlos Pacheco and her two boys, Carlos III and Alejandro, and her family, give her reasons to believe in herself every day.

As a student in the KCK Public Schools, Pacheco said she was positively impacted by each of her teachers in some way. Having the support of her twin brother, Tom, made her feel that she was never alone in her educational journey.

She believes that today's students need to become active in their communities and church by volunteering.

"The role you take and the decisions you make can positively impact your community," she said.