



2008 Alumni Honor Roll | Reasons to Believe



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

Michael P. Bautista, Ph.D.

Washington High School, 1970

Education has always been at the center of Michael Bautista's life. Through teaching and administrative work, he has positively impacted thousands of students over the years.

He has served as a principal, assistant professor, instructor and administrative director for secondary schools and colleges in the Midwest area. He has opened two performing arts centers and a magnet school for the arts.

Currently, he is associate vice president of learning and academic affairs at the Community College of Denver. He also serves as dean of the Center for Arts and Sciences, and recently developed and opened a Confucius Institute, the only one of its kind at a community college.



He has a bachelor's degree in music education from Kansas State Teachers College and a master's in theatre design and technology from Emporia State University. He earned his Ph.D. in fine arts administration from Texas Tech University in 1981. In 1989, he completed 46 hours of work in educational administration at Oklahoma State University.

His community involvement includes serving on the Board of the Colorado Alliance for the Arts in Education and the Rocky Mountain Arts Consortium.

Growing up in the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools, Bautista was so involved in his classes and extracurricular activities that he practically lived at school. He was an athlete and a member of the orchestra, band and choir. These activities provided him with both physical and mental outlets, and gave him teamwork experience.

He credits his high school vocal music teacher Don Wright and history teacher Lynn Sheppard for giving him reasons to believe in himself. Wright was his first voice teacher and asked him to be his assistant for the school musical. Sheppard supported Bautista in a historical film project that encompassed many technical and academic facets. It gave him an understanding of authentic learning that he uses with his students today.