Kaya McLaren

Kaya McLaren brings experiences from her other careers into her classroom-- archaeology into pottery; massage therapy into sculpture; writing fiction into artworks that tell a story; and laboratory work into scientific illustration. She’s deeply grateful for a job that not only allows to grow as an artist but encourages her to, and is grateful for the WAEA for the ways the organization and its members facilitate and support that growth. Teaching has taken her from the Quinault Rainforest to the wheat country of Eastern Oregon all the way to the Jicarilla Apache Reservation in Northern New Mexico where she helped write a grant that brought music, art, drama, and dance to the elementary school here. When her writing career picked up steam, she took a two year sabbatical from teaching to write on the beach in Mexico, but found she missed the meaning and purpose in her life that teaching gives to her. Three and a half years ago, she accepted her present position at Foothills Middle School in Wenatchee, where she is proud to be part of a very positive, deeply caring, and boldly innovative staff. Now in her twentieth year of teaching, she’s enjoying the challenge of making creating an art program with cultural relevance for all as well as exploring exciting possibilities through choice-based art instruction and T.A.B. during PLC time with her district-wide middle school art team.