

The full impact of the Wilhelm Scholes's impact on my life was not fully evident until I had children attending the traditional public school. Looking back, I recognize that the Wilhelm Scholê is responsible for exciting many of the passion in my life today and shaping my value system. Through the approach of the Wilhelm Scholê each child learns that he or she has a gift that can impact the world. My epiphany occurred when a holocaust survivor visited our class and spoke her experiences during this era. From that moment on, I had a voracious appetite for history. The Wilhelm Scholê provided experiences and opportunities to nurture that interest. Further, I can recall similar instances occurring for other students in areas that included the medical field, the arts, astronomy, and meteorology.

The other core value that was instilled in the students was the value of contributing to society. Not only were we expected to treat others with kindness and respect, but we knew we had a responsibility to society at large. From this I have a long history of volunteering for various activities within my community. When I was approached by numerous people to run for mayor, I knew that if the citizens regarded me as a respectable candidate I had an obligation to consider service seriously.

Due to my experience with a curriculum that fully integrated the arts I am fully aware of the power the arts can instill within the education system. I have been honored to carry on Ms. Wilhelm's vision as an arts administrator and work to help rural school districts implement and integrate the arts into their classrooms.

I am eternally grateful that I was able to attend the Wilhelm Scholê. Not only to I have fond memories of Ms. Wilhelm and my experiences, but I constantly reflect on its philosophy in my family life, my community involvement, and my professional life.