

2011 League Educator Apple Awards Recipients

Lisa Okikawa, Teacher of Visually Impaired Students in the Pasadena Unified School District, Pasadena, California

Ms. Okikawa began her ongoing collaboration with Center Theatre Group in April of 2009 with *Ain't Misbehavin'*. Ms. Okikawa's innovation tailored the recent production of *Mary Poppins* so that visually impaired students could experience the show through a "touch tour" and modified lesson plans that best accommodated their needs. Her efforts led her students to realize that art and creativity could be vital parts of their lives, allowing for new topics of discussion and academic exploration.

Nelson Torres, Director of Technical Theatre Studies at Howard W. Blake School of the Arts, Tampa, Florida

This past year, Mr. Torres partnered with the Patel Conservatory at the David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts in the area of Technical Theatre. This collaboration has built a strong foundation for introducing students to the non-performance side of theatre, by providing them with internship opportunities in production and administration as well as hands-on experience in the scenic design and construction of a local youth show. Mr. Torres's students also saw *In the Heights* and complemented the performance with creative exercises exploring their own neighborhoods as artistic spaces.