



Santa Clara County Office of Education

NEWS RELEASE

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**2016 Teachers of the Year and STEM Teaching Award Winners named;
SCCOE continues to highlight last year’s winners in PSA series**

SAN JOSE, CA – The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is proud to reveal Santa Clara County’s 2016 Teachers of the Year, along with the recipients of the 2016 Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Awards.

The following accomplished educators will be recognized at the 47th annual Teacher Recognition Celebration presented by the SCCOE on Thursday, Sept. 29 at the Heritage Theatre in Campbell:

Name	School District	School
Guadalupe M. Cruz	Alum Rock Union Elementary School District	San Antonio Elementary School
Theresa Bernal	Berryessa Union School District	Summerdale Elementary School
Sarah Payne	Cambrian School District	Bagby Elementary School
Laura S. Hallinan	Campbell Union High School District	Del Mar High School
Anupama Gupta	Campbell Union School District	Blackford Elementary School
Qinglin Yang	County Charter School	Bullis Charter School
Angelica Guzman	County Office of Education	Hollister Head Start
Barbara Wooley	Cupertino Union School District	Hyde Middle School
Kaitlin C. Jenkins	East Side Union High School District	Santa Teresa High School
Leopoldo Padilla	Evergreen School District	LeyVa Bulldog Tech
Thi Le-Nguyen	Franklin-McKinley School District	Jeanne R. Meadows Elementary School
Debbie Frazier	Fremont Union High School District	Monta Vista High School
Jennifer Spinetti-Lightfoot	Gilroy Unified School District	Gilroy High School
Karren Zook	Loma Prieta Joint Union School District	Loma Prieta Elementary School

Vicki Lombardi	Los Altos School District	Santa Rita Elementary School
Gail Ballenger	Los Gatos Union School District	Louise Van Meter Elementary School
Natasha Thompson (Ritchie)	Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District	Saratoga High School
Laura Boostani	Luther Burbank School District	Luther Burbank Elementary School
P. Cesar Romero	Metropolitan Education District	Silicon Valley Adult Education
Elizabeth Harke	Milpitas Unified School District	Milpitas High School
Jonathan Ling	Moreland School District	Anderson Elementary School
Howard Barnes	Morgan Hill Unified School District	Ann Sobrato High School
Jenessa Locklin	Mount Pleasant School District	Robert Sanders Elementary School
Emily Champion	Mountain View Whisman School District	Bubb School
Nicole Kopels	Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District	Mountain View High School
Alejandra Flores	Oak Grove School District	Del Roble Elementary School
Steven Gilbert	Orchard School District	Orchard School
Luz Camey De Wierzbicki	San Jose Unified School District	Washington Elementary School
Angie Scott	Santa Clara Unified School District	All 26 Santa Clara Unified sites
Jonathan Jow	Saratoga Union School District	Redwood Middle School
Colleen Lynch Espinoza	Sunnyvale School District	San Miguel Elementary School

The 2016 STEM Teaching Award Winners, who will receive cash awards of \$1,000 each:

Name	School District	School
Richard Timpson	Campbell Union School District	Campbell Middle School
Michaela Brant	East Side Union High School District	Apollo High School
Mark St. John	Fremont Union High School District	Fremont High School
Michelle Sugden	Metropolitan Education District	Silicon Valley Career Technical Education
Samantha McMillan	Oak Grove School District	Herman Intermediate School
Jennifer Lee	Santa Clara Unified	49ers STEM Leadership Institute

The annual Teacher Recognition Celebration is co-sponsored by Texas Instruments and the Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union, with support from the San Jose Mercury News, Santa Clara County School Boards Association, Sixth District PTA, and other local businesses.

Coinciding with this announcement is the release of [volume eight](#) of the [Teacher PSA series](#) in which the 2015-16 district teachers of the year from around the county share just a few of their thoughts about why they find teaching so rewarding.

The latest video profiles Jan Carlson-Williams from Piedmont Middle School in Berryessa Union School District, Rasa Radavicius from Parkway State Preschool representing the SCCOE, and Stacey McGuffin from Rolling Hills Middle School in Campbell Union School District. All the teachers featured in this [video series](#) were honored during the 2015-16 Teacher Recognition Celebration hosted by the SCCOE last fall.

Visit the Teacher Recognition Celebration [website](#) to learn more about the event's history, view videos and photographs of previous ceremonies, and get to know past teacher honorees.

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