



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SCCOE's STEAM Initiative receives prestigious Golden Bell Award**

**SAN JOSE, CA** – The Santa Clara County Office of Education's Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math (STEAM) Initiative has been chosen as one of this year's recipients of the coveted Golden Bell Award. Presented by the California School Boards Association (CSBA), this award recognizes public school programs that focus on meeting the needs of all students, are innovative and sustainable, and have made a demonstrated difference in the classroom.

The STEAM team provides professional development in science, mathematics, English/Language Arts, engineering, arts, Career Technical Education, and literacy across content areas. Throughout the year, this can include everything from a one-day professional development session on literacy strategies, to an in-depth institute on neurologically-sound teaching strategies for math in early grades, to a showcase of student artwork enhanced by augmented reality technology (a type of virtual reality).

"Our STEAM program consistently produces cutting-edge programming that makes the most of our innovative community and prepares students to thrive in the 21st century," said County Superintendent of Schools Jon Gundry. "It is a prime example of the SCCOE's ongoing work to ensure that our region's schools offer every student a world-class education. I couldn't be more pleased that the CSBA has recognized STEAM's impressive record of accomplishments."

One STEAM offering of particular note is the Digital Storytelling Certificate program, created in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution. Currently being developed with a cohort of local educators, it potentially will grow into a one-of-a-kind professional learning opportunity for teachers around the world. Participants will learn in an online/offline "blended learning environment" about Digital Storytelling and earn certification through digital badges for topics such as Graphic Novels, Animation, Documentary and Film. Ultimately, the goal is to have the entire program replicated and sustained through an online system.

A judging panel made up of experts from school districts and county offices of education reviewed all written entries and made initial recommendations for awards. Finalists were assessed through an on-site visit, evaluating the programs in action. The honorees from the SCCOE will receive their award at a recognition ceremony to be held on Saturday, Dec. 5 at the CSBA's Golden Bell Showcase and Luncheon in San Diego.

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