



NEWS RELEASE

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Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Award winners named

SAN JOSE, CA – Six teachers from throughout Santa Clara County have been named recipients of the inaugural *Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Awards* for their outstanding instruction in the subjects of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

The honorees will be recognized for their teaching excellence at the Santa Clara County Teacher Recognition Celebration on Sept. 27. Thanks to the generosity of Texas Instruments (TI), the STEM honorees will receive cash awards of \$1,000 each. They'll also have an opportunity to attend at no cost a STEM professional development event at the Santa Clara County Office of Education, which produces the celebration, and if they choose, to present at the event.

A panel of judges selected the honorees from a wide field of candidates. Teacher applicants and their principals both submitted extensive applications. Here's a look at the 2012 *TI STEM Teaching Award* winners:

- **Channy Cornejo, East Side Union High School District, Santa Teresa High School, *Advanced Placement statistics/math analysis***: Channy embraces technology, and was the first math teacher on campus to use a smart board actively. In the 2011-12 school year, she launched an AP statistics course, and the popular class is now over-enrolled for 2012-13. Channy has played an active role in exciting students to take four years of math classes: In 2012-13, 85 percent of Santa Teresa seniors are enrolled in at least one period of math.
- **Debra Dimas, East Side Union High School District, Santa Teresa High School, *Advanced Placement physics***: Eighty percent of Debra's students score a 3 or better on the AP exam. Debra is an integral part of the school's science department, for which she has served as department chair. In the 2012-13 school year, 63 percent of seniors are scheduled for at least one science class.
- **Bill Dunbar, Palo Alto Unified School District, Gunn High School, *physics/engineering/robotics***: Gunn administrators credit Bill with turning the school's engineering technology program into one of the state's finest. He pioneered a robotics team that has become a model

nationwide. Bill also used innovative teaching strategies to revitalize Gunn's physics program. Students and their parents rave about Bill's classroom, and some call the experience "life-changing."

- **Bernadette Salgarino, East Side Union High School District, James Lick High School, *mathematics***: Bernadette uses project-based learning, real-world applications and software to help students of all math subjects further their understanding. She is recognized by administrators for her focus, resolve and dedication. She's also known to use dance steps to emphasize the process to solve math problems.
- **Mike Sbarbaro, Luther Burbank School District, Luther Burbank School, *eighth grade***: In the 2011-12 school year, Mike dedicated many volunteer hours to start a Lego robotics club called the Luther Burbank Cannibalistic Fist Pumping Bananas. His goal was to enrich students by teaching them software programming, robotics, problem solving and team building. In competition, the team won the Judge's Choice Trophy, just weeks after the group's formation.
- **Tara Sikorski, San Jose Unified School District, San Jose High School, *International Baccalaureate biology/Project Lead the Way biotech***: Tara's classroom is collaborative and rigorous, and features project-based learning and assignments. She frequently spends time after school and on weekends to work with students who need extra help. Tara is known around campus as a competent, committed and passionate educator.

The *TI STEM Teaching Awards* were added to this year's Teacher Recognition Celebration to acknowledge the growing emphasis placed on preparing students for the global, high-tech workforce. While STEM-related jobs have increased three times the rate of non-STEM jobs nationwide, only 30 percent of high school students graduate ready for college work in science and only 45 percent are college-ready in math. The awards honors STEM teachers in grades 7 through 12 who consistently demonstrate quality instruction, inspire interest and enhance student achievement in STEM subjects.

The Teacher Recognition Celebration every fall honors Santa Clara County's finest teachers, each selected by their respective school districts. The SCCOE produces the gala with the support of community partners TI, the Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union and the San Jose Mercury News. A tradition enduring more than 40 years, the Teacher Recognition Celebration is the oldest and largest celebration of teachers in California, and the most prestigious local award given to classroom teachers.

The 2012 Teacher Recognition Celebration will be held on Sept. 27 at the Heritage Theatre in Campbell. For more information, visit www.sccoe.org/trc.

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About the Santa Clara County Office of Education:

Since 1852, the Santa Clara County Office of Education has provided vital services and resources to the county's 31 K-12 public school districts and more than 250,000 students. The SCCOE strives to provide advocacy and leadership on education issues, student programs that are models of excellence, and indispensable services to schools and community partners. The SCCOE takes pride in being a premier

employer and a champion for children, schools, and community. For more information, visit www.sccoe.org.

About Texas Instruments:

Texas Instruments semiconductor innovations help 90,000 customers unlock the possibilities of the world as it could be – smarter, safer, greener, healthier and more fun. Our commitment to building a better future is ingrained in everything we do – from the responsible manufacturing of our semiconductors, to caring for our employees, to giving back inside our communities. TI’s top corporate philanthropy has been education for more than 80 years, and STEM education is now the focus. TI supports programs that promote effective teaching, increase student awareness of STEM and drive student achievement. The company focuses on communities where TI operates, including Silicon Valley California. Read more about TI’s support of education at www.ti.com/citizenship.