

Santa Clara County  Office of Education

48th Annual Teacher
Recognition
Celebration



September 14, 2017 • Campbell Heritage Theatre

*48th annual
Santa Clara County*

Teacher Recognition Celebration

RECEPTION

Lincoln High School Chamber Orchestra
Amie Jan, Director

WELCOME

Lincoln High School Chamber Orchestra
Amie Jan, Director

MASTERS OF CEREMONIES

Jon R. Gundry
*County Superintendent of Schools,
Santa Clara County Office of Education*

and

Manny Barbera
*Vice President of Advocacy and Thought Leadership
Silicon Valley Education Foundation*

TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Presented by
Dr. Michael Chang
*President,
Santa Clara County Board of Education*

and

Jodi Muirhead
*President,
Santa Clara County School Boards Association*

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

STEM TEACHING AWARDS

Presented by
Victoria Tung
*Director of Public Affairs,
Texas Instruments*

*The use of flash photography is
prohibited during the program.*

Please silence cellular phones.

Santa Clara County
Teachers
of the Year
2017



Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2017



REBECCA C. MORGAN BALSTER

Alum Rock Union School District
Ocala STEAM Academy
Eighth Grade Science, STEAM, and Math
Years in profession: 12
Years with district: 12

“Ms. Balster has organized our highly successful and very much anticipated Ocala STEAM Night for three years in a row. She has always been active in all our community efforts at Ocala, from planning, to the implementation of these programs.”

– Alum Rock Union School District

“As a Tech Academy of Innovation participant, I incorporated more engineering lessons into my classroom; which encouraged students to embrace the engineering design process. In addition, I helped organize an annual STEAM night at my site. Finally, I worked with a district team to help with the transition to the Next Generation Science Standards.”

– Rebecca C. Morgan Balster



SATOMI FUJIKAWA

Berryessa Union School District
Vinci Park Elementary School
Third Grade
Years in profession: 10
Years with district: 10

“Ms. Fujikawa consistently goes above and beyond to provide the best learning experience for her students.”

– Berryessa Union School District

“I engage students by creating project-based units of study that integrate technology and 21st century skills, like the Colonial American Trade Fair where my fifth-grade students became masters at a colonial trade and convinced third and fourth grade students to become their apprentice. I also believe that a stronger partnership between teachers and the school community is necessary for our students to be successful. As a PTA board member and through my involvement in leadership committees, I helped to bring the school staff and families together to improve our school.”

– Satomi Fujikawa

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2017



DEAN HODGES

Cambrian School District
Sartorette Elementary School
Third to Fifth Grade, Special Day Class
Years in profession: 23
Years with district: 16

“Mr. Hodges is a valued member of the Cambrian community, and we are thrilled to celebrate his many contributions to the district and the lives of students.”

– *Cambrian School District*

“The Sartorette School garden is open to all students at Sartorette and has had a tremendous impact on my students, especially in the areas of team building, science, math, and social studies. The garden sparks a genuine curiosity for learning in room 18 and allows students to experience success throughout the school year.”

– *Dean Hodges*



ELIZABETH JARRETT

Campbell Union High School District
Westmont High School
Ninth to 12th Grade U.S. History, Graphic Publications,
and AVID
Years in profession: 22
Years with district: 18

“Elizabeth Jarrett is, without a doubt, a key driving force in what keeps the Westmont Warrior spirit alive, not only for her students but for staff as well.”

– *Campbell Union High School District*

“In 2014, I took on the new role of AVID Coordinator and established an AVID program at Westmont. The program has grown significantly in the past four years – we started with 20 students, and now we have 160 students in the program, and we will be celebrating our first AVID graduating class in 2017-18. Part of the success is that I have implemented and promoted AVID strategies school wide.”

– *Elizabeth Jarrett*



Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2017



SHERRY MILES MONCRIEF

Campbell Union School District
Marshall Lane Elementary School
Second Grade

Years in profession: 31

Years with district: 30

“Sherry Moncrief is a talented, well-respected member of the Marshall Lane staff. She is the quintessential professional and is seen by her colleagues as a leader.”

– *Campbell Union School District*

“The choices I made as a teacher each day centered on a workshop model: What did we know? How well did we know it? And what were our next steps? It has been very important to me to present material, concepts, and practices to my students that make sense to their young minds and mine, and that each day is spent learning together. It’s been an adventure!”

– *Sherry Miles Moncrief*



EILEEN KIM

County-Authorized Charter School
Summit Public School
Summit Tahoma
Ninth Grade World History and 12th Grade AP Government

Years in profession: 4

Years with district: 4

“Eileen has been a skilled teacher-leader. She is driven, and she inspires her students and colleagues to be their best.”

– *Summit Public Schools*

“I’m most proud of my work to empower young people to engage in politics and give voice to their dreams what this country can be; of showing students the importance and relevance and diversity of thought, and identity by learning history and how to think critically of mentoring and coaching young people to realize their potential beyond what society expects of them.”

– *Eileen Kim*



Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2017



KATHLEEN M. SHANNON

County Office of Education
Della Maggiore School
Primary Special Day Class
Years in profession: 45
Years with district: 45

“From her first day of service until her last, Kathy’s class room is run as an environment for maximum student learning. Kathy is well-loved by students, staff, parents, and administrators.”

– *County Office of Education*

“The students I have taught are students with severe disabilities, but I look at their abilities and develop a program to meet each of their individual goals. My goal is for them is to reach their highest potential, have fun, and enjoy life.”

– *Kathleen M. Shannon*



ERIN LEARY

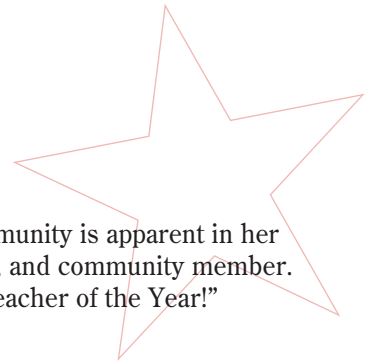
Cupertino Union School District
West Valley Elementary School
Kindergarten
Years in profession: 19
Years with district: 17

“Erin’s devotion to children and the community is apparent in her passion and strength as a teacher, friend, and community member. It is without hesitation that Erin is our Teacher of the Year!”

– *Cupertino Union School District*

“As a team, my colleagues and I have collaborated amongst grade level team members, between grade levels, with school and district administration, and with the parent community to reimagine a high functioning, safe, effective learning environment for all. I believe teamwork and collaboration are the only ways for a school to function cohesively and effectively and I am proud of the environment we have created.”

– *Erin Leary*



Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2017



GUADALUPE ALVAREZ

East Side Union High School District

Independence High School

10th to 12th Grade Spanish Language and Culture, AP Spanish Literature and Culture

Years in profession: 19

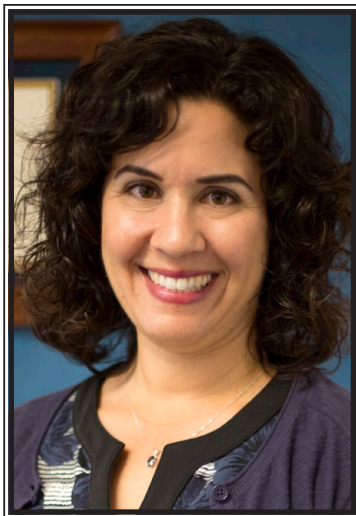
Years with district: 19

“Ms. Alvarez is well loved by our students, respected by our staff, and admired by our Administration for her vision and dedication.”

– *East Side Union High School District*

“It not only takes a village to educate a child but as well it takes a village to help a teacher educate a student. In my 19 years of teaching, I have made many people open doors for me and allowed me to flourish in my profession. Without their guidance, support, and leadership, I would not be part of the Migrant Education program, Cyber High program, Co-Department Head of the World Languages department, and a teacher on special assignment. I will always be grateful to every single one of them, and I will continue to grow because I am not done yet.”

– *Guadalupe Alvarez*



MARCIA ARAUJO

Evergreen School District

Katherine Smith Elementary School

Elementary Resource Specialist

Years in profession: 19

Years with district: 19

“Marcia Araujo is more than your typical special education teacher. Beyond managing a large caseload of students and supporting their individual needs, she is one of the most important people at K. Smith School. Marcia cares about everyone on the campus.”

– *Evergreen School District*

“Five years ago I joined a community of educators, students and parents to reinvent Katherine Smith School as a model 21st century learning environment focused on collaboration, innovation, and critical thinking, where students adopt a college bound mindset. We are recognized internationally as an exemplar school by both P21-Partnership for 21st Century Learning and The New Tech Network. Being part of the original team that built this public school, which is now recognized as a model for the future, is my greatest professional accomplishment.”

– *Marcia Araujo*



Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2017



SATWANT SINGH BATH

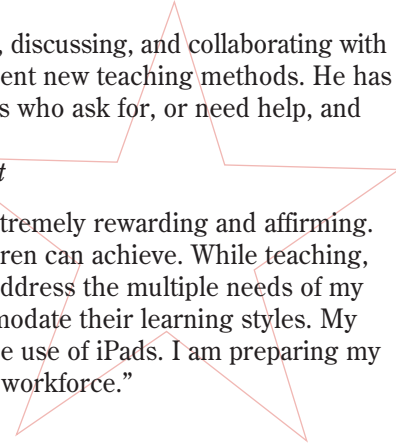
Franklin-McKinley School District
Robert F. Kennedy Elementary School
Fourth Grade
Years in profession: 18
Years with district: 18

“Satwant is constantly researching, discussing, and collaborating with professional colleagues to implement new teaching methods. He has a sincere desire to help individuals who ask for, or need help, and demonstrates this ability.”

– *Franklin-McKinley School District*

“Witnessing student success is extremely rewarding and affirming. It confirms my belief that all children can achieve. While teaching, I utilize a variety of strategies to address the multiple needs of my students. I differentiate to accommodate their learning styles. My STEM program is enhanced by the use of iPads. I am preparing my students for success in the future workforce.”

– *Satwant Singh Bath*



RICK BARLOW

Fremont Union High School District
Fremont High School
Ninth to 12th Grade Mathematics
Years in profession: 5
Years with district: 5

“Rick loves creating learning experiences that stimulate student’s intellectual curiosity. Being able to get a student to ask “why” about something and then giving them the opportunity to explore their “why” is critical to his teaching philosophy.”

– *Fremont Union High School District*

“I am passionate about teaching rigorous math to English Language Learners. However, I believe the best way to support ELLs is by having a teacher leader. I’ve started a teacher peer-to-peer observation club at my school. The ELL Professional Learning Community I lead engages in year-long lesson study. And I’ve created and facilitated professional development for teachers around teaching ELLs.”

– *Rick Barlow*



Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2017



CATHERINE ANN SILVA

Gilroy Unified School District

Gilroy High School

Ninth to 12th Grade Mathematics, Cross Country Coach

Years in profession: 18

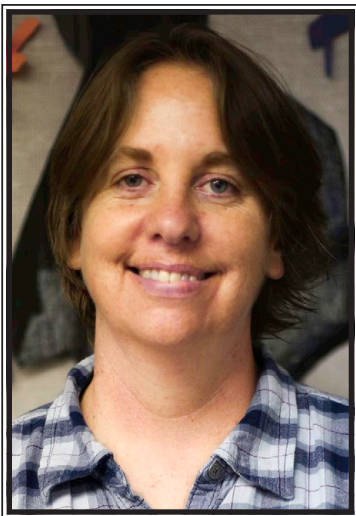
Years with district: 18

“Mrs. Silva is well respected and held in the highest regard by her colleagues as well as parents. Her classroom walls are adorned with senior photos of her former students who were fortunate enough to have her as a teacher, coach, or both. Former students often stop by to visit and ask if they could visit Mrs. Silva’s classroom.”

– *Gilroy Unified School District*

“Everyone can learn mathematics; they just need to trust their inner mathematician and apply an open mind. Skills, whether mathematics or sports, require perseverance and effort. Once you decide to apply these two characteristics, your success will begin to snowball.”

– *Catherine Ann Silva*



CASEY LELAKE

Loma Prieta Joint Union School District

Loma Prieta Elementary School and CT English Middle School

Kindergarten to Eighth Grade Music

Years in profession: 20

Years with district: 3.5

“Ms. Lelake has a warm teaching style filled with humor and humility. She is able to adapt movement into music classes at the younger grades and is working to grow the talents of our emerging brass and wood wind sections. Her colleagues have been extremely impressed with her natural classroom management style. Students enthusiastically participate in classroom music, and parents are grateful for her bringing her professionalism and expertise to our small mountain schools.”

– *Loma Prieta Joint Union School District*

“I want my students to come away with life lessons; how to be a human in a world that sometimes lacks humanity; how to work with others and invite other ideas; how to work independently and be brave enough to ask for help; and how to create and appreciate creations.”

– *Casey Lelake*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2017



DIANE WHARTON

Los Altos School District
Santa Rita Elementary School
First Grade

Years in profession: 21

Years with district: 21

“Diane Wharton is an amazing teacher. She is a team player who looks to find and implement what are best practices for student learning.”

– *Los Altos School District*

“Each school year I work toward creating a student-centered environment where all students have a voice and choice. I love to try new things and share with others. EdCamps are a passion, and they’ve inspired me to incorporate Genius Hour, Breakout Edu, coding, digital portfolios, and Twitter. Every new year brings new opportunities and new students! It’s a great time to be a teacher!”

– *Diane Wharton*



TANYA BOYLE

Los Gatos Union School District
RJ Fisher Middle School
Science, Yearbook, Leadership, STEM

Years in profession: 16

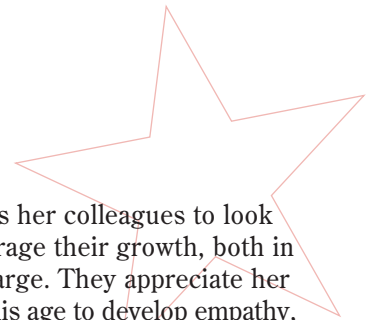
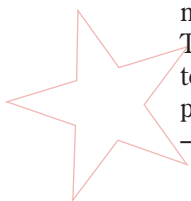
Years with district: 5

“As a colleague, Tanya constantly challenges her colleagues to look for new ways to engage students and encourage their growth, both in the Fisher Community and in the world at large. They appreciate her willingness to see the potential for students this age to develop empathy, compassion, and the willingness to influence their world for good.”

– *Los Gatos Union School District*

“The most important part of my job every day is the interactions I get to have with my students. My goal has always been to ensure as many of my students as possible have a fantastic experience in middle school. They grow and change so much, and it is my privilege to have the chance to impact their lives at such a critical time for academic, emotional, and physical growth.”

– *Tanya Boyle*



Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2017



CATHERINE R. MESSENGER

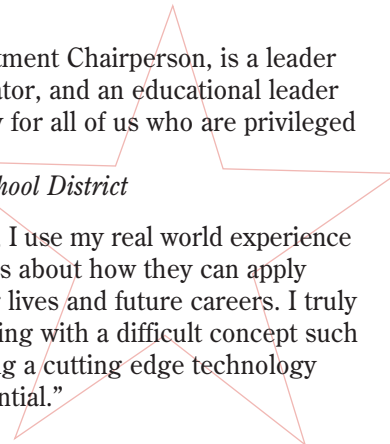
Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District
Los Gatos High School
10th to 12th Grade Chemistry and Advanced Science Research
Years in profession: 12
Years with district: 12

“Catherine, currently the Science Department Chairperson, is a leader amongst her peers, an exceptional educator, and an educational leader who models the highest level of integrity for all of us who are privileged to work with her.”

– *Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District*

“As a working biochemist turned teacher, I use my real world experience to teach and mentor high school students about how they can apply what they learn in the classroom to their lives and future careers. I truly believe that whether a student is struggling with a difficult concept such as an Equilibrium in Chemistry, or exploring a cutting edge technology I can help them reach their highest potential.”

– *Catherine R. Messenger*



NATALIA DIEHL

Luther Burbank School District
Luther Burbank Middle School
Sixth Grade Math, English Language Arts, Writing, History
Years in profession: 12
Years with district: 10

“Ms. Diehl has mastered the ability to engage students in learning and the curriculum. Natalia sets high standards for her students, and they respond positively to each challenge. Her approach and demeanor inspire her students to develop a strong sense of confidence in academics and themselves.”

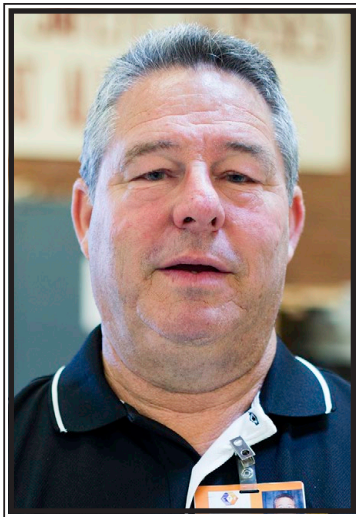
– *Luther Burbank School District*

“I have worked with middle school students for six years. I keep my students engaged and focused on learning. In addition, I plan our school talent show and plan school wide events for Read Across America.”

– *Natalia Diehl*



Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2017



KURT CHEETSOS

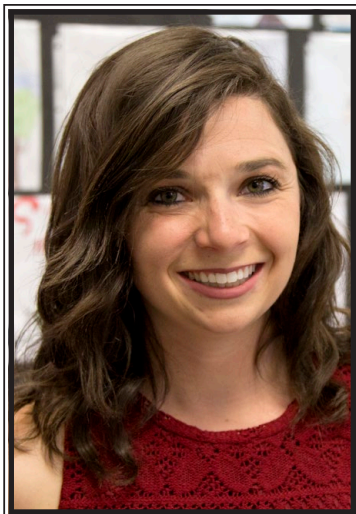
Metropolitan Education District
Silicon Valley Career Technical Education Center
11th to 12th Grade and Post Secondary Construction Technology
Years in profession: 12
Years with district: 12

“Kurt’s compassion for others is seen throughout the way he interacts with his students, parents, and colleagues. Other teachers have shared their appreciation for the way in which his students are engaged in hands-on projects even without Kurt’s presence.”

– *Metropolitan Education District*

“Twenty-first century technology is built on a well-rounded academic and technical knowledge base. It is my firm belief to instill in students this understanding of what is needed to be successful in a Building Trades Career. Collaboration with varying people of all demographics and lifestyles is an important teaching aspect of education. Many individuals are retiring from the trades with no one to fill their shoes. It is imperative to fill these needs with bright, enthusiastic students who could enjoy a lifelong fulfilling career.”

– *Kurt Cheetsos*



LAURA M. POLDEN

Milpitas Unified School District
Pearl Zanker Elementary School
Fourth Grade
Years in profession: 4
Years with district: 4

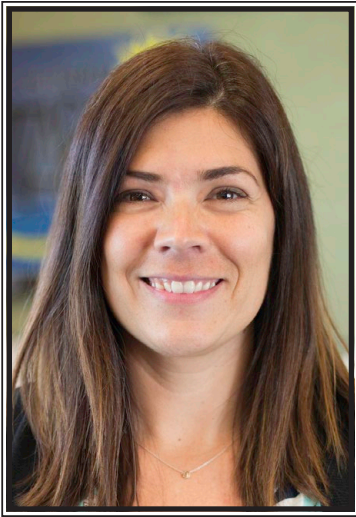
“Laura is a dynamic instructor who has a natural ability to read her students’ needs. She is highly engaging and highly motivating not only for her students, but her energy is infectious with our staff.”

– *Milpitas Unified School District*

“I pride myself on developing and fostering deep connections with my students through engaging, silly, and creative ways. I also spend time singing and practicing improv with my students!”

– *Laura M. Polden*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2017



SHANNA URBANCIC

Moreland School District

Moreland Middle School

Sixth Grade Core and Sixth to Eighth Grade English Language Development

Years in profession: 10

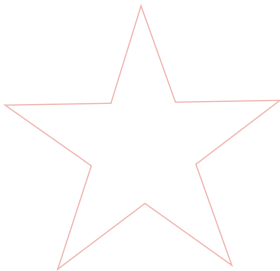
Years with district: 10

“Shanna Urbancic is a true champion for students. She makes her curriculum fun and accessible to all of her students.”

– *Moreland School District*

“My philosophy has always been kids learn best when they feel cared for; building a strong class community is at the core of my teaching.”

– *Shanna Urbancic*



JENNIFER KLEM-MYERS

Morgan Hill Unified School District

Barrett Elementary

Third Grade

Years in profession: 16

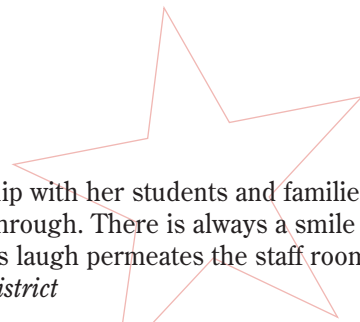
Years with district: 16

“Jen has an amazing relationship with her students and families. Jen’s positivity always shines through. There is always a smile on her face, and her contagious laugh permeates the staff room.”

– *Morgan Hill Unified School District*

“I would like to be acknowledged for being a life-long learner, collaborating with my peers, and having high standards for all my students. In addition, I am very involved in my union, serving on the negotiations team and being a union rep. I believe it takes a village to raise a child, and I work hard to communicate to my families, making their students’ education a collaborative effort.”

– *Jennifer Klem-Myers*



Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2017



CINDY PARICO

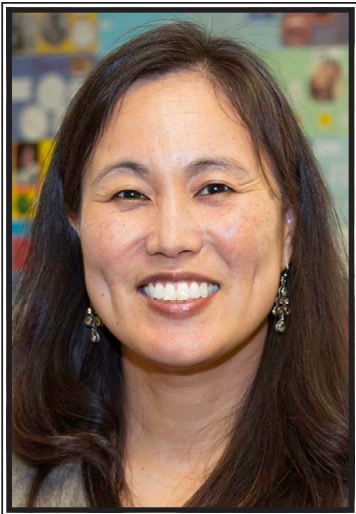
Mount Pleasant School District
Ida Jew Academy
Fifth Grade Bilingual Teacher (English and Spanish)
Years in profession: 6
Years with district: 6

“Cindy is a valued employee, driven by continuous improvement in instructional practices and the integration of technology. Her classroom is a model classroom where she integrates technology and provides her students 21st Century learning skills and techniques.”

– *Mount Pleasant School District*

“Teaching is not only about the curriculum, but also building relationships with all stakeholders, especially with students. Making those connections allows students to be more engaged in what they are doing in the classroom because they know that they are valued as a human being, and not just another body in the room. In getting to know who your students are both in and out of the classroom, you are able to bridge their home life and school life which in turn will help them succeed.”

– *Cindy Parico*



BETTY K. YAMASAKI

Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District
Los Altos High School
Ninth to 12th Grade Mathematics, Algebra I to Calculus
Years in profession: 23
Years with district: 22

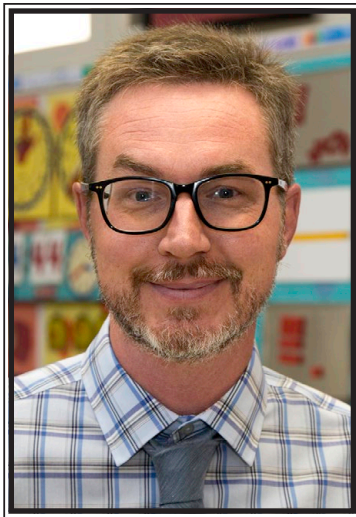
“Betty’s colleagues would nominate her as co-worker of the year every year. She is a team player in every sense of the word, especially because she truly understands that each person’s success depends upon everyone’s success.”

– *Mountain View-Los Altos High School District*

“I’d like to acknowledge the MVLA Union High School District, administration, and all the past and present co-workers that I’ve been blessed to have worked with over the years here at Los Altos High School whom I’ve learned so much from to become a better educator. I would especially like to acknowledge Wynne Satterwhite for her support, particularly helping create classes with us that are in the best interest for student success. I appreciate my MVLA family for molding me into the teacher I am and look forward to continue mastering my craft.”

– *Betty K. Yamasaki*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2017



DAVID H. FRANKLIN

Mountain View Whisman School District
Bubb Elementary School
Second Grade

Years in profession: 18

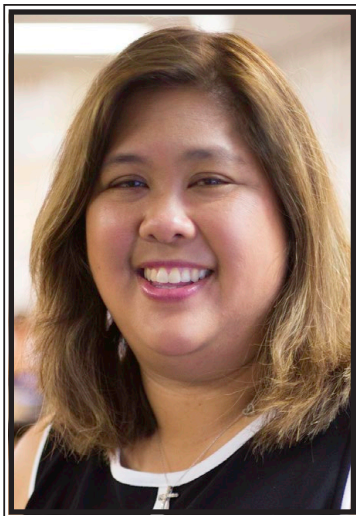
Years with district: 15

“David Franklin represents the best of teachers and teaching. His passion for his work makes a difference in the lives of the students, the staff, and the school.”

– *Mountain View Whisman School District*

“Simply being nominated for Teacher of the Year by my mentors, peers, heroes, friends, and colleagues has been the greatest honor and highest achievement of my career so far. I am also grateful for being able to work with hundreds of amazing students and their families over the years.”

– *David H. Franklin*



MARIE MABANAG

Oak Grove School District
Christopher School

Seventh and Eighth Grade English, and Seventh Grade Math and Science

Years in profession: 19

Years with district: 19

“We are excited to nominate Marie Mabanag for teacher of the year. We do not take this decision lightly, but when you have the most amazing teacher around it is impossible to not be excited to nominate her. Marie is what we all strive to be as educators.”

– *Oak Grove School District*

“Every student has the potential to do or be something amazing. It’s always my goal to help each student whose path I cross find that potential, and build upon that so they can make their mark on the world. I’ve been fortunate enough to be that beacon for over 1,000 students in the last 19 years. Their devotion, respect, and dedication in our classroom has helped me become the teacher I am today.”

– *Marie Mabanag*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2017



PATRICIA A. PRYOR

Orchard School District
Orchard School
Kindergarten
Years in profession: 14
Years with district: 12



“Trish Pryor is a caring, compassionate, and very competent kindergarten teacher who is admired and respected by her kindergarten colleagues and all Orchard staff. Ms. Pryor’s classroom is full of learning opportunities. She manages to go the extra mile to reach and include her students, and her colleagues deeply respect how Ms. Pryor represents the best of the Orchard Bruin faculty.”

– *Orchard School District*

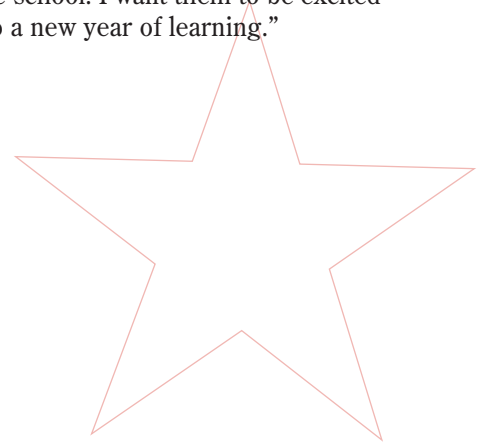
“I love to learn. I love school. My goal as a kindergarten teacher is for my students to love learning and to love school. I want them to be excited to come back after summer vacation to a new year of learning.”

– *Patricia A. Pryor*



ALLISON PRUITT

San Jose Unified School District
Washington Elementary School
K to Fifth Grade Reading Intervention Specialist
Years in profession: 14
Years with district: 14



“Allison is dedicated to elevating opportunities for the entire Washington Elementary School community, from students and fellow teachers, to families and administrators. She regularly goes above and beyond the job description to help today’s students become the thinkers, leaders, and creators of tomorrow.”

– *San Jose Unified School District*

“As Washington Elementary’s Reading Intervention Specialist and SST Coordinator, I am a strong advocate for students who struggle the most. I took on the school Glasses Club when I saw a need for students to feel good about wearing their glasses. I am also a member of the Tech Museum’s Tech Academies, and I began a Coding/Robotics Club at Washington in an effort to expose more students to software engineering and the engineering process.”

– *Allison Pruitt*



Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2017



KELLY VILLARREAL

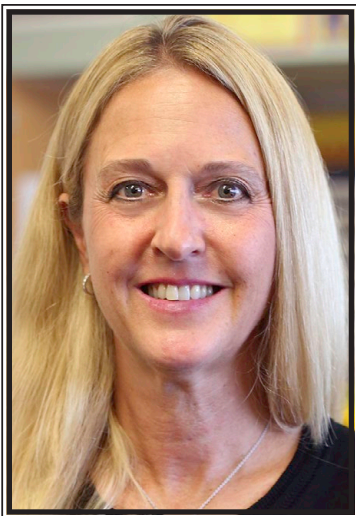
Santa Clara Unified School District
Wilcox High School
Culinary Arts and Counselor
Years in profession: 23
Years with district: 15

“Kelly is a mentor that truly cares about every student that has walked into her classroom and office. Mentoring youth and being the persevering voice that pushes for action is her slogan – “To get up, dress up, and show up.”

– *Santa Clara Unified School District*

“I created the C.H.A.M.P. (Culinary, Hospitality, and Management Program) at Wilcox High School in 1994, a three-year career pathway program recognized by the State of California as a “Program of Excellence.” The program serves students today and is taught by a former student who went through my program in high school. I also revived the culinary program at Peterson Middle School, receive a program of excellence for that program and have another former student teaching that program as well.”

– *Kelly Villarreal*



HEIDI MORRIS

Saratoga Union School District
Argonaut Elementary School
Fourth Grade
Years in profession: 32
Years with district: 30

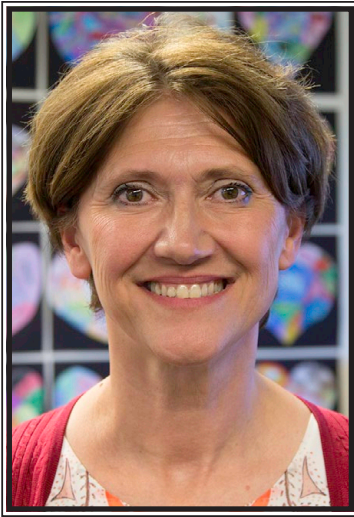
“After 30+ years of successful inspired teaching with hundreds of hours of professional coursework to her credit, Heidi entered the world of her digital-native students to learn all about the educational technology that most engage them in learning.”

– *Saratoga Union School District*

“It has been a blessing to teach for thirty years in the community where I was raised. Being a positive role model to my fourth-grade students and making a difference in their lives has brought me so much joy. I am proud to have impacted the climate of our school campus as a caring mentor to my Argonaut colleagues and to my fellow employees in the Saratoga Union School District. Nearing the end of my career, I still believe teaching is the most impactful, honorable, and rewarding profession there is!”

– *Heidi Morris*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2017



MIRELL KAZOS

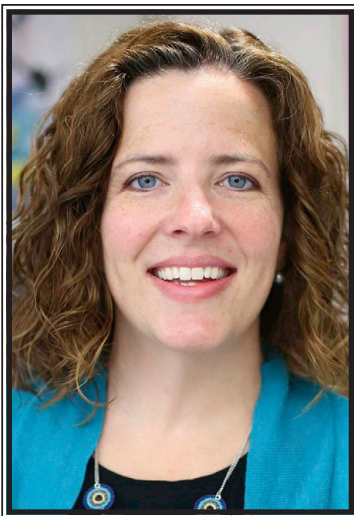
Sunnyvale School District
Bishop Elementary School
Fifth Grade
Years in profession: 11
Years with district: 8

“It’s clear to see why Mirell Kazos is nominated as Bishop Elementary’s Teacher of the Year. Her passion for teaching is evident in all that she does, and each decision she makes is always in the best interest of the students of our school and of our district.”

– *Sunnyvale School District*

“My guiding principle is that growth will lead to proficiency. I am proud to work for a district that is innovative, progressive, and fiercely protective of its students. These three qualities will serve us well as we navigate the ever-changing waters of education. Thank you.”

– *Mirell Kazos*



MEGAN MULLALY

Union School District
Dartmouth Middle School
Sixth Grade
English-Language Arts, Social Studies, and Seventh and Eighth
Grade Media Productions
Years in profession: 17
Years with district: 15

“Megan Mullaly is a hardworking teacher, who is passionate about her students and her profession. She is dedicated to doing all she can to inspire her students and help guide them on their paths to success.”

– *Union School District*

“The Dartmouth Way is a philosophy promoting positivity, team work, helping others, and going above and beyond. I’m proud to be a part of a school which not only values academics but honors our individual students and their social-emotional needs. The result is magical – students who thrive and love their school! It’s the Dartmouth Way.”

– *Megan Mullaly*

Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Award Winners 2017



SRIDAYA MANDYAM-KOMAR

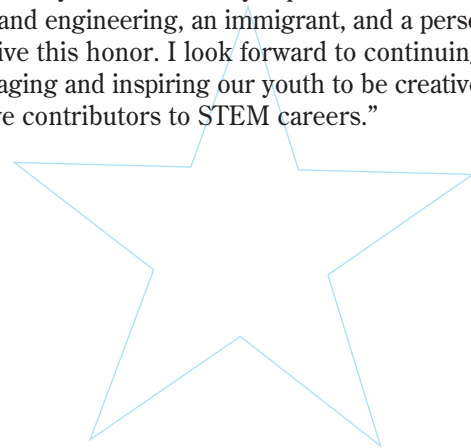
Milpitas Unified School District
Calaveras Hills High School
High School Mathematics and Engineering
Years in profession: 15
Years with district: 2

“Sri is a dedicated teacher who exemplifies a high level of professionalism, dedication towards her students, and commitment to teaching STEM education. She is the perfect choice for this award.”

– *Milpitas Unified School District*

“As a minority in this great country of ours in every aspect – a woman trained in and teaching math and engineering, an immigrant, and a person of color, I am thrilled to receive this honor. I look forward to continuing the important work of encouraging and inspiring our youth to be creative, compassionate, and innovative contributors to STEM careers.”

– *Sridaya Mandyam-Komar*



DARREN B. DRESSEN

Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District
Los Altos High School
10th to 12th Grade Chemistry, Advanced Research
Years in profession: 6
Years with district: 6

“Students in Darren’s classroom interact with each other as professional colleagues and work with Darren as a coach and mentor. They learn in his classroom because of their own interest and motivation, but mostly because Darren has created, structured, and facilitated this extraordinary STEM learning experience.”

– *Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District*

“I believe students can dream and achieve more than we as teachers realize. If this is true, then we need to provide them with adequate tools, and then get out of the way. Our job is simply to encourage them during setbacks, and convince them they can do marvelous things.”

– *Darren Dessen*



Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Award Winners 2017



DR. MADELEINE DASALLA

Metropolitan Education District
Silicon Valley Career Technical Education Center
Ninth to 12th Grade Medical Science

Years in profession: 12

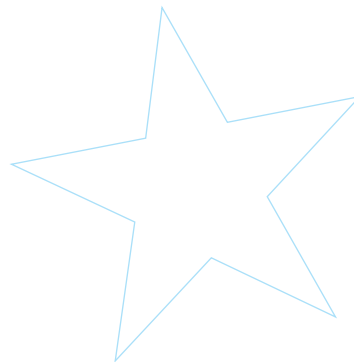
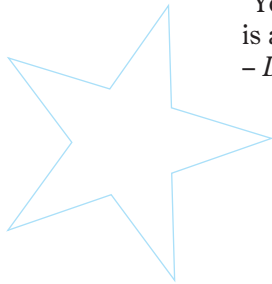
Years with district: 12

“Throughout her units, Madeleine engages students in active learning, critical thinking, and problem solving in a myriad of ways, such as combining anatomy studies with clay model building for students to deepen their learning kinesthetically. Madeleine has also developed an extensive network of “community classroom” sites, where students apply their classroom learning through internships with physicians, in medical clinics and hospitals. Madeleine has also been very active in our outreach efforts, engaging middle school students in heart dissections and other hands-on activities.”

– *Metropolitan Education District*

“You don’t have to be born privileged to make a better world. Education is a gift. Take it with open hands and run with it.”

– *Dr. Madeleine Dasalla*



Welcome from the Santa Clara County Board of Education



At this evening's event, we are honoring 32 "Teachers of the Year" for their commitment to education, innovative teaching strategies, ability to motivate students, and parent and community involvement. On behalf of the Santa Clara County Board of Education, please accept my warmest greetings as you gather for the 2017 Teacher of the Year Celebration.

I want to thank these outstanding teachers for their hard work and dedication, both in and out of the classroom, motivating students to fulfill their potential. We have accomplished much in Santa Clara County, and so many of those great strides are a result of the time and input of educators like you. As we work towards providing all students with the knowledge and tools they need to succeed, you are our greatest asset in challenging our students to achieve their goals.

Four decades ago, Frank and Pauline Lowe organized the first Teacher Recognition Celebration, seeking to honor the teaching profession and those individuals who dedicated themselves to a life of educating our children. Since that time, it has been a goal of the Santa Clara County Office of Education to increase community awareness of the invaluable contributions of teachers, demonstrate appreciation for their achievements, and acknowledge the incredible amount of preparation, planning, and professional development that has taken place for them to be successful in this profession.

On behalf of the County Board of Education, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to these fine educators for bringing out the best in every child and providing them with world class educational opportunities. Enjoy your special night!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Chang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "g".

Dr. Michael Chang
Board President

Congratulations from the County Superintendent of Schools



On behalf of the residents of Santa Clara County, I congratulate the teachers being honored this evening as “Outstanding Teachers of the Year.” These individuals are exemplary leaders, going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that our public school children receive a high-quality education. Recognizing the great work of dedicated educators in Santa Clara County is a rich tradition. The Santa Clara County Teacher Recognition Celebration is the largest and oldest celebration of public school educators in the state. With such talented and dedicated educators working in Silicon Valley, the future of public education in our region looks brighter than ever!

Every fall, the Santa Clara County Office of Education honors a Teacher of the Year from each of our school districts for creativity in the classroom, commitment to student success, and a passion for lifelong learning. Five years ago, we added something new to the celebration – The Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Awards, which was created specifically to honor educators in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.

Honoring our greatest teachers each year would not be possible without the generous support of our corporate community partners. We thank them all, and extend a special thank you to our co-sponsors – Texas Instruments and the Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union.

I applaud the teachers we honor tonight for their dedication to the profession, and for their ability to recognize the talents and gifts of each of their students. These teachers have given their time and their talent to a profession that is among the most rewarding and important: educating our children.

These leaders have embarked upon one of this nation’s most important pursuits—educating our children. This excellence they bring to their classrooms affects not just their students, but also the entire community. I would like to personally congratulate tonight’s honorees for their professional achievements, and for the role they play every day in preparing kids for a successful life in an ever-changing and increasingly complex world.

Congratulations to each of the Teachers of the Year, and my best wishes to everyone for a wonderful event.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Gundry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jon R. Gundry
Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools

A message from the Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union



Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union is very proud to sponsor the Teacher Recognition Celebration as we offer our sincere congratulations to the 2017 Teachers of the Year! At our organization, commitment to education is a top priority, and during our ongoing partnership with Santa Clara County Office of Education, we have continued to look for opportunities to support teachers and students within the community in which we serve. As we celebrate the outstanding achievements of these exceptional educators, we also take this time to recognize their dedication and hard work, and what it truly means to go above and beyond.

Teachers are essential to the future success of our community. Teachers not only educate, but they help mold young minds to be the leaders of tomorrow. Many individuals who have had positive influences on our communities attributed their accomplishments to a teacher who inspired them to reach for the stars and achieve their dreams. Their influence on a young student is indelible.

On behalf of the staff and membership of Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union, I congratulate all those being celebrated for their passion and commitment to the prestigious field of teaching. To put it simply, teachers are awesome!

Rebecca Reynolds Lytle
President and Chief Executive Officer
Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union



A message from Texas Instruments



At Texas Instruments, we recognize that supporting education today is critical not only to the success of our company, but to the communities where we live and work.

We strive to be demonstrative in our commitment to education, applying both our philanthropic and volunteer resources to help students in the K-12 system be engaged and inspired. We focus our resources on the creation of hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) experiences for K-12 students and their teachers.

We are proud to partner with the Santa Clara County Office of Education, supporting their mission to be a champion for the students they serve and honoring the outstanding teachers who lead in their classrooms every day. Tonight, in conjunction with the Santa Clara Office of Education's annual Teacher Recognition Celebration, we will present the Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Award to sixth-12th grade teachers who consistently demonstrate quality instruction and enhance student achievement.

On behalf of Texas Instruments, I would like to congratulate all of tonight's honorees and thank you for your outstanding work and dedication to our local students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Wong', written in a cursive style.

Kim Wong
Vice-President and General Manager, Display Power & Drivers
Santa Clara Site Manager
Texas Instruments

The Significance of the Teacher Recognition Celebration

The Santa Clara County Teacher Recognition Celebration has endured for 48 years as a grand tradition of honoring teaching excellence in the region.

Proudly coordinated by the Santa Clara County Office of Education, the annual event remains one of California's oldest and largest recognitions of public school educators. The gala ceremony's humble origins can be traced back more than four decades to when San Jose residents Frank and Pauline Lowe decided that educators deserved more acknowledgement, admiration, and respect.

On Sept. 26, 1970, 41 teachers gathered at the San Jose Civic Auditorium. The afternoon's multicultural program included the Counsel General of China, local political leaders, and groups performing Scottish Highland, American Indian, and Hawaiian dances.

With help from the Lowe family, generous sponsors, and the County Office of Education, the Teacher Recognition Celebration has grown from a small gathering to a gala event that draws over 500 people; but the mission remains the same: to honor excellence in teaching.

Thirty-two teachers were selected in 2017 by their school districts for their exceptional ability to achieve the following:

- communicate subject matter in an interesting, relevant, and effective manner;
- use creative methods in classroom instruction;
- continually upgrade and update their own education through classes, training, or staff development programs;

- participate in activities within the profession, keeping aware of issues and trends, encouraging professionalism and making a contribution; and
- show a sincere commitment to be a champion for students, schools and community.

The Teacher Recognition Celebration is conducted with objectives similar to what the Lowes envisioned decades ago:

- publicly recognize the efforts and contributions of educators throughout Santa Clara County;
- increase public awareness of teachers' responsibility in helping our youth to develop their ideals and goals;
- show appreciation for their many fine educational achievements;
- acknowledge the many years of training that teachers undertake to prepare for and stay current in their profession; and
- strengthen ties between students and teachers, and to bring about a greater understanding between generations.

In 2012, the Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Awards were added to the event to acknowledge the growing emphasis placed on preparing students for the global, high-tech workforce. This year, a panel of judges selected three teachers in the subjects of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics from fifth grade to adult education to receive the award.

One of the premier events of its kind in the country, Santa Clara County's Teacher Recognition Celebration has received a Golden Achievement – Exemplary Program Award from the National School Public Relations Association.

#SCCStarTeachers



Santa Clara County Office of Education

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is committed to serving, inspiring, and promoting student and public school success. The organization serves as an exemplary regional resource to students, parents, school districts, charter schools, community agencies, and businesses.

The SCCOE provides instructional, administrative, human resources, business, and technical support services to the county's 31 school districts. By centralizing services such as payroll, employee technology support, professional development, and fingerprinting, the SCCOE helps districts to achieve greater efficiency and cost-savings.

SCCOE programs that provide direct instruction include Alternative Education, Special Education, Migrant Education, Head Start, State Preschool, and Environmental Education.

OUR GOALS

- Improve student equity and access to high quality education;
- Provide support to districts, communities, schools and students;
- Be a premier employer; and
- Improve organizational effectiveness and efficiency.



#SCCStarTeachers

COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Michael Chang • Joseph Di Salvo
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COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Jon R. Gundry

Santa Clara County  Office of Education

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www.sccoe.org/trc