



*42nd annual
Santa Clara County*

Teacher Recognition Celebration

September 27, 2011

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Santa Clara County*

Teacher Recognition Celebration

WELCOME

Miller Middle School Jazz Choir

Anthony Edward Arnold, Director

Charles Weis, Ph.D.

County Superintendent of Schools

Santa Clara County Office of Education

Jessica Aguirre

Anchor, NBC Bay Area News

SALUTATIONS

Joan Scott

Director of Community Relations

National Semiconductor,

Co-sponsor of Teacher Recognition Celebration

Michael J. Delmonico

President and Chief Executive Officer

Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union,

Co-sponsor of Teacher Recognition Celebration

TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Presented by

Joseph Di Salvo, *President*

Santa Clara County Board of Education

and

Pam Parker, *President*

Santa Clara County School Boards Association

RECEPTION

*Use of flash cameras is prohibited
during the program.*

Please turn off cellular phones.

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2011



PAULA McHALE ALLI

Alum Rock Union School District

Arbuckle Elementary School

Fifth grade

Years teaching: 23

Years with district: 10

"Respected and admired by colleagues, students and parents, Paula McHale Alli creates a classroom environment that reflects a climate of caring and focus on academics. She engages her students in a variety of ways, which allow them to interact with each other and learn through collaboration." – Alum Rock Union School District

"Once a month, I welcome parents into my classroom to read books with their children and to share a homemade breakfast. The 'Breakfast and Books' program develops a wonderful bond between my parents, my students and me. Throughout the years, 'Breakfast and Books' has become an overwhelming success. I look forward to continuing this exciting family reading program." – Paula McHale Alli

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2011



MARSHA YEE

Berryessa Union School District
Northwood School
Special Education Resource Specialist
Years teaching: 35
Years with district: 31

"Marsha Yee is the quiet force behind the exceptional academic performance of students. She works closely with classroom teachers to develop strategies and practices that benefit all students."

– Berryessa Union School District

"As a Specialist Education teacher, it has been a privilege to work with dedicated teachers. My goal has been to foster a collaborative atmosphere between the support and general education staff, where the needs of all students are met in a nurturing learning environment."

– Marsha Yee



MATT HILL

Cambrian School District
Farnham School
Fourth grade
Years teaching: 5
Years with district: 5

"Matt is a highly competent teacher, passionate about his work, and an outstanding individual with commendable leadership skills. He is earnest and resourceful, and a true leader." – Cambrian School District

"One of the things I enjoy most about teaching is watching students take charge of their learning by asking questions and exploring potential solutions. When they feel connected to what they are working on, they forget that they are actually learning! I especially like to bring science and technology into other parts of the curriculum to help me create these self-directed learners!" – Matt Hill

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2011



JOSHUA RANDALL FRANTZ

Campbell Union High School District

Boynton High School

English

Years teaching: 5

Years with district: 3

"Joshua has high expectations for students in both their behavior and in their learning. Joshua is an asset to the Boynton program, and the students are fortunate to have such a dedicated professional as their teacher." – Campbell Union High School District

"It is a real pleasure to work with at-risk students. These are bright young people who have not made school a priority, but have decided to commit to turning their lives around and take school seriously. Graduation was not realistic for these students earlier in their school careers, but now it is a distinct possibility. It is an honor to be a part of this process and to help them succeed where failure seemed imminent."
– Joshua Randall Frantz



KIM ELLEN MUÑOZ

Campbell Union School District

Blackford Elementary School

First grade

Years teaching: 16

Years with district: 10

"Kim's classroom 'oozes' with high expectations in a caring climate for students. On a daily basis, Kim can be seen conferring with students, working with small groups, or processing information with the whole class to check for understanding. Laughter, respect and a joy of learning are embedded in everything she does, and the individual student is honored for the gifts they bring to the learning community."
– Campbell Union School District

"Become the change you hope to see!" – Kim Ellen Muñoz

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2011



LISA STONE

County charter schools
Bullis Charter School
English-Language Arts and Social Sciences
Years teaching: 17
Years with district: 7

"Lisa has been instrumental in helping develop and implement the innovative curricula. Through her leadership, she has been responsible for annual improvements in the STAR scores of every grade level, class and academic area she has taught in the past six years."

– Bullis Charter School

"With my superintendent/principal and a group of very dedicated parents, I helped start a K-6 charter school that is fulfilling its mission to help both children and adults take risks and reach their full potential. This year, we launched our middle school program, and I got the chance once again to help design the program, and work to put it into action by teaching our first seventh-grade class." – Lisa Stone



PAUL MYRVOLD

County Office of Education
Blue Ridge High School
Regional Occupational Program – welding
Years teaching: 24
Years with district: 24

"Paul is a role model for his peers and other co-workers. He is the first one to adopt and adapt to new technologies, first to comply with requests for information, first to meet new mandates from the state or other regulatory agencies, and is always willing to help in response to any request." – County Office of Education

"The welding program goes far beyond the acquisition of the skill of welding. At the Boys Ranch, the goal is to change the thoughts and behaviors that led the boys to arrest, trial and incarceration. The program stresses genuine accomplishment by working to a high standard, and the satisfaction that goes with it is readily observable."
– Paul Myrvold

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2011



ANTHONY EDWARD ARNOLD

Cupertino Union School District

Miller Middle School

Music

Years teaching: 16

Years with district: 9

"Anthony is able to dig deep into each and every one of his students' inner 'American Idol.' Students who had never even performed in front of an audience are now being showcased in solo performances."

– Cupertino Union School District

"All students were created for a specific purpose. As they go through school, each child's purpose starts to become more clear, activating their passion. My philosophy of excellence, striving to do the right thing all the time, has taught students to be attentively diligent to obedience so they can develop their character to courageously go after their purpose with a passion to effectively bring change the world."

– Anthony Edward Arnold



STEFANIE BLANCO De WILLS

East Side Union High School District

James Lick High School

World History and Social Problems/Psychology

Years teaching: 5

Years with district: 5

"She is a highly respected educator who motivates and moves students toward increased academic achievement. As a teacher, coach, program coordinator and student mentor, Stefanie has been a central component of bringing a school and learning community to new levels of success."

– East Side Union High School District

"Being an educator in the East Side Union High School District has been an amazing part of my life, and I look forward to educating and working with many future generations of East Side students, families and communities." – Stefanie Blanco De Wills

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2011



JAMES A. CONWAY

Evergreen School District
James F. Smith Elementary School
Sixth grade
Years teaching: 23
Years with district: 23

"James goes above and beyond to make sure every student is learning. He uses technology in the classroom to motivate students, and makes learning challenging and engaging. He encourages his students to be risk-takers and to be creative." – Evergreen School District

"To prepare our students to be successful, educators need to focus on developing our students' communication and collaborative skills to work effectively and respectfully with each other. Our students will need to know how to efficiently access, evaluate and use the massive amounts of information, media and technology that is now available at their fingertips." – James A. Conway



JEFF CARVER

Franklin-McKinley School District
Kennedy School
Kindergarten
Years teaching: 15
Years with district: 15

"In the hours before and after school, Jeff can often be found teaching small groups of students doing voluntary, unpaid intervention sessions. Jeff has high expectations for all students and feels that all students can succeed and show progress." – Franklin-McKinley School District

"I believe that all students can be successful no matter what their circumstances might be. Accept them for who they are, recognize where they are, and build from there." – Jeff Carver

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2011



AMANDA DAY ALONZO

Fremont Union High School District
Lynbrook High School
Biology and Physiology
Years teaching: 9
Years with district: 9

"Amanda demonstrates a clarity of vision and deep commitment to creating a scientific research culture and offering opportunities for students to pursue meaningful scientific research. She shares her passion and helps students find theirs." – Fremont Union High School District

"For each of the last eight years, Lynbrook has sent at least one student to the International Science and Engineering Fair, and students have earned over \$800,000 in cash, prizes and scholarships! I believe that doing science as opposed to learning it from a book is the key to our world's future success." – Amanda Day Alonzo



CHARLA MITTMAN

Gilroy Unified School District
Dr. T.J. Owens Gilroy Early College Academy
English
Years teaching: 23
Years with district: 23

"Charla can build a climate where even error is welcomed and OK, where student questioning is high, and where engagement is the norm." – Gilroy Unified School District

"Educators know all students have the potential to be successful — the trick, as a teacher, is to help students define their sense of significance as individuals so they can recognize their successes when they hit it! With this initial discovery, success will come to them in all shapes and sizes!" – Charla Mittman

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2011



LINDA ITO BABCOCK

Loma Prieta Joint Union School District

Loma Prieta Elementary

First grade

Years teaching: 14

Years with district: 4

"Linda is tireless in her quest to teach. She is so talented at learning new things and incorporating them into her daily routine. She goes above and beyond to present information to her students and colleagues."

– Loma Prieta Joint Union School District

"I am proud of bringing out the innate confidence, curiosity, perseverance and joy in my students. I am proud to see them step out of their comfort zones and grab opportunities to explore ways to be respectful and proactive problem solvers." – Linda Ito Babcock



LAURA MASSARO

Los Altos School District

Egan Junior High

Mathematics

Years teaching: 29

Years with district: 21

"Laura Massaro has taught at Egan for 21 years, and is the lead math teacher. Laura's students perform well in the Math Counts, Sigma and AMC8 math competitions." – Los Altos School District

"I am proud to be a 2009 winner of an Edyth May Sliffe Award for Distinguished Junior High/Middle School Mathematics Teaching. This award is administered by the Mathematical Association of America, and recognizes teachers who have contributed substantially to the success of students on the American Mathematics Contest 8." – Laura Massaro

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2011



FRAN MASTROIANNI

Los Gatos Union School District
Blossom Hill School
Fourth grade
Years teaching: 28
Years with district: 10

"Fran has a real empathy for those students who are most difficult to teach, whether the problem is academic or behavior-related. On several occasions over the years, she has planned special weekend or after-school reward trips with children." – Los Gatos Union School District

"I challenge myself each year to work with those students who are academically challenged to help them feel successful and more confident." – Fran Mastroianni



SHARON E. SMITH

Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District
Los Gatos High School
English
Years teaching: 35
Years with district: 35

"Sharon is an educational warrior. After over 30 years in the profession, she is one of the most flexible, most open-minded, most rigorous, dedicated, and hard-working teachers on this staff. She works for her students. She supports the efforts of her colleagues."
– Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District

"I've coached the speech and debate team for my entire career. I'm a member of the California High School Speech Association Coaches' Hall of Fame. I really think every child should learn to speak. Speech and debate gives each child a voice." – Sharon E. Smith

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2011



ELI S. SEGURA

Luther Burbank School District

Luther Burbank School

Seventh and eighth grades

Years teaching: 11

Years with district: 10

"Eli has taught both primary classes and middle school with calm professionalism, and provides intervention services, serves on school committees and interacts with families. He is a valued team member and a role model who proudly offers excellence in education for a new generation of young people." – Luther Burbank School District

"Public education is the most important social investment that empowers underprivileged and marginalized communities to achieve social mobility, and improved quality of life. I am proud that as a public school teacher, my efforts contribute to these endeavors." – Eli S. Segura



COLLETTE NOELANI BETTERS

Metropolitan Education District

Central County Occupational Center

Health Occupations (Career Technical Education)

Years teaching: 11

Years with district: 11

"There is a feeling in her class that lets a visitor know immediately that everyone in the class is a student, and all of us are learning each day and we should continue to learn throughout our lives." – Metropolitan Education District

"Our role has evolved into teaching students how to be responsible stewards of information, and to associate it with the bigger picture, from a career to the global community. Through partnerships with the hospitals and medical clinics in our county, knowledge comes to life." – Collette Noelani Betters

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2011



MARK C. SCHOELLER

Milpitas Unified School District
Thomas Russell Middle School
English-Language Arts
Years teaching: 16
Years with district: 6

"While Mark clearly does and is everything that exemplifies an extraordinary teacher and colleague, it is his joyful spirit toward his students and his career that truly set him apart." – Milpitas Unified School District

"I can think of no cause greater than teaching. No skill is more necessary for success than reading, and nothing makes me happier than the resulting student success. I feel as if I can indeed make a difference each and every day." – Mark C. Schoeller



REBECCA NICHOLS

Moreland School District
Easterbrook Discovery School
Kindergarten and first grade
Years teaching: 16
Years with district: 7

"Rebecca has a strong understanding of each one of her students' individual needs, and structures her classroom to ensure that everyone is learning at all times by providing experiences for all learning styles." – Moreland School District

"I am most proud of the collaboration being achieved with the students, families and staff in my school, district and community." – Rebecca Nichols

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2011



DIANA L. ROCHA

Morgan Hill Unified School District
Live Oak High School
Social Studies
Years teaching: 36
Years with district: 36

"She is always willing to share her wealth of knowledge to be sure her peers are successful, as well as spare her valuable personal time to help her students be as successful as possible within her classroom."

– Morgan Hill Unified School District

"I am most proud of using current issues to help make our American government and our Constitution relevant to our future voters."

– Diana L. Rocha



CATHI HALL

Mount Pleasant School District
Robert Sanders Elementary School
Fifth grade
Years teaching: 32
Years with district: 25

"Cathi teaches her students to be independent thinkers and individuals. She creates a classroom of respect and fairness, celebrating the diversity of our community." – Mount Pleasant School District

"It has been important to me to help my students build an appreciation of science, and develop a healthy curiosity about their surroundings. Becoming a lifelong learner is important to every child's future."

– Cathi Hall

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2011



LYNN MOOREHEAD

Mountain View Whisman School District

Theuerkauf Elementary School

Fifth grade

Years teaching: 23

Years with district: 23

"Lynn is a consummate professional and lifelong learner. She treats every student with the respect they deserve. Students in Lynn's class flourish and become motivated through her different teaching techniques." – Mountain View Whisman School District

"During my years of teaching, collaborating helped improve my teaching, helped me grow as a teacher, and helped other teachers improve their craft. Learning to ask better questions both of my students and my colleagues led to better teaching and learning. Teachers working together, rather than in isolation, leads to excellent learning for all." – Lynn Moorehead



JIM MCGUIRK

Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District

Mountain View High School

Mathematics

Years teaching: 24

Years with district: 24

"In his classroom, Jim takes on challenges that other teachers might not, whether that is instructing students who are struggling to pass the CAHSEE or those learning the highest level of calculus that our school offers. There is no one more dedicated to MVHS than Jim."

– Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District

"I have held many different roles at the school that have touched many students' lives: soccer coach, baseball coach, golf coach, athletic director, department coordinator, new teacher mentor, and math teacher." – Jim McGuirk

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2011



MANUEL VILLALPANDO

Oak Grove School District
Glider Elementary School
Sixth grade
Years teaching: 10
Years with district: 5

"Manuel is an exemplary teacher who puts to action OGSD beliefs and vision. He builds personal relationships and sets high expectations for all of his students." – Oak Grove School District

"Every student is on their own path to greatness. My amazing task each year is to help each and every one of my students to understand, interpret, manipulate and build upon their map to ensure success beyond all of our imaginations." – Manuel Villalpando



KATY POOLE

San Jose Unified School District
Pioneer High School
History and EL coordinator/coach
Years teaching: 5
Years with district: 4

"As a history teacher and the EL coordinator and coach, Katy Poole consistently advocates for our lowest-level learners. Katy is a true pioneer." – San Jose Unified School District

"By advocating for all students to gain the skills they need to reach their full potential, historically low-performing students are experiencing success. I've created a program to address the needs of low-performing English language learners and significantly reduced the failure rate."
– Katy Poole

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2011



CHRISTINE A. DRAGO

Santa Clara Unified School District

Santa Clara High School

Mathematics

Years teaching: 20

Years with district: 10

"Whether the students are the highest achieving students on campus or at-risk students, this teacher takes the students to a new level of understanding of the curriculum, and the students reach understandings that they originally thought were unattainable." – Santa Clara Unified School District

"Mathematics as a transformational experience for young people is the driving force behind my passion for teaching. When students start to see math, especially statistics, in their everyday lives, I know I have changed their thinking and their futures." – Christine A. Drago



LAURIE BRANDT

Saratoga Union School District

District elementary schools

Literacy coach/reading specialist

Years teaching: 16

Years with district: 7

"No task is too great for this educator. Working with students with the greatest needs, Laurie provides expert and systematic literacy support with loving care and engagement." – Saratoga Union School District

"I feel that my training as a Reading Recovery teacher provides me with a unique perspective on early literacy intervention. I am honored and privileged to work as the Literacy Coach for Saratoga Union School District." – Laurie Brandt

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2011



ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ

Sunnyvale School District
San Miguel Elementary School
Fourth and fifth grade
Years teaching: 13
Years with district: 13

"The passion and energy that Elizabeth brings to her job exceed those of many new teachers, even though she has been guiding classes of upper-grade students for 14 years." – Sunnyvale School District

"It is an amazing feeling to see children learn and grow into confident, productive and successful students! To know that in some way I touch their lives and help to shape lifelong learners is one of the greatest joys of my career!" – Elizabeth Hernandez



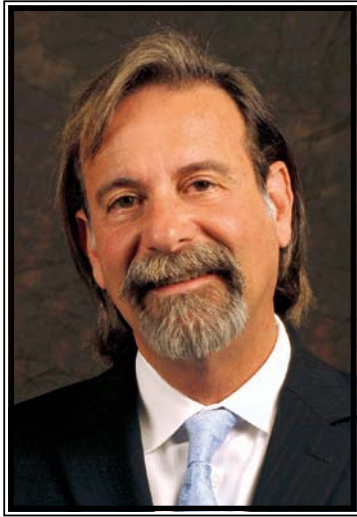
ANNEMARIE PAIGA

Union School District
Lietz Elementary School
Reading and English Language
Years teaching: 10
Years with district: 4

"Annemarie works closely with struggling students at all levels. She has a deep knowledge of each student's strengths and weaknesses, and works to help these students achieve at the highest level possible." – Union School District

"I am committed to helping my students learn through experiencing the content and interacting together. It brings me such joy to watch my students become more fluent and confident readers, as well as make learning connections that allow them to engage, comprehend and succeed." – Annemarie Paiga

Welcome from the Santa Clara County Board of Education



On behalf of the Santa Clara County Board of Trustees, I welcome all of you with a warm heart and symbolic embrace to our annual teacher recognition program.

At the February 2011 State of the Union Address, President Obama said, "If you want to make a difference in the life of our nation, if you want to make a difference in the life of a child, become a teacher. Your country needs you."

The 31 teachers we honor this evening are the cornerstone of our society. Congratulations to all of you for becoming teachers and for making Santa Clara County a great place to teach, learn and grow.

You are superstar teachers. You place high expectations on yourselves and your teammates. You set high measurable goals. You are constantly reflective and self-evaluative. Your lesson plans are worked and reworked, sometimes with solicitation of collegial feedback. You spend 10 to 12 hours per day honing your craft so that all students succeed at their highest level.

As you bask in the spotlight tonight for your many career accomplishments, we are reminded that public education is at a crossroads. We must be ambassadors for excellence in all we do and say when it comes to teaching and learning.

We must be vocal about increasing funding for all aspects of public education, including counseling, libraries, health services, visual and performing arts, sciences, career technical education, world languages, and so forth.

You are at the vanguard of your chosen profession, and for that we applaud and honor you. The County Board of Education heartily thanks you for a job well done. May the fires you ignite in learners be the spark that creates a new generation of teachers anxious to fill our nation's classrooms with a new commitment of service. The country needs you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph S. Di Salvo". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Joseph Di Salvo
President
Santa Clara County Board of Education

Congratulations from the County Superintendent of Schools



More than 40 years ago, San Jose residents Frank and Pauline Lowe held the first Teacher Recognition Celebration when they decided that educators deserved more acknowledgement, admiration and respect.

Today, the Santa Clara County Office of Education lovingly and proudly coordinates festivities made possible by generous support from community partners like National Semiconductor and the Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union.

Still, I often wonder how much has changed for teachers since the Lowes' initial lament decades ago. It seems that we appreciate our teachers less today than any time I can remember in my long career in education.

Of course, our teachers and schools can improve – and every member of any occupation should always strive for professional advancement. But first the public must genuinely support an educational culture that encourages educators.

Everyone here tonight joins me in the understanding that teachers are true heroes. But we must never stop pursuing the Lowes' longtime dream of creating a collective culture that regards them as such.

On behalf of the entire County Office of Education, it is truly my honor to recognize the county's very best at the 42nd annual Teacher Recognition Celebration.

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

Charles Weis, Ph.D.
Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools

A message from the Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union



Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union is proud to celebrate its 17th year as a co-sponsor of the Teacher Recognition Celebration, and we extend our congratulations to the 2011 Teachers of the Year. Being selected for this honor is an expression of excellence in your field, and it is truly a privilege to celebrate your individual contributions to advance the quality of education in our community.

In today's competitive environment, a quality education is essential to secure a prosperous future. A teacher serves a primary role in delivering this education and preparing children for greater challenges as they become young adults. This important responsibility is one that requires dedication, patience and professional competence from our teachers. The teachers honored tonight have consistently met this responsibility and we applaud your fine work.

Congratulations and best wishes in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael J. Delmonico". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping line extending from the end.

Michael J. Delmonico
President and Chief Executive Officer
Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union

A message from National Semiconductor



At National Semiconductor, we believe that the future success of our company and our community relies on the knowledge, skills and abilities of today's youth. It is imperative that we all work together to ensure students thrive – not merely survive – in this ever-changing environment.

We believe that by supporting teachers we can make the greatest impact in education. Through National's Power of Education Initiative, our goal is to ignite innovation in science and math instruction through professional development and ongoing support of teachers. We focus on programs that recognize innovative teachers. After all, we have seen first-hand how a teacher's enthusiasm and caring can make learning exciting...forever changing the lives of his or her students.

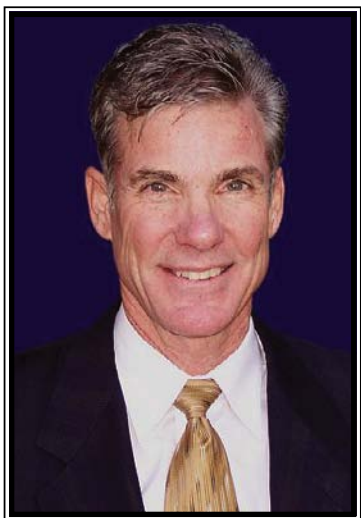
In this valley, we are very fortunate to have so many dedicated teachers who spend their time, energy and resources to educate and inspire their students. So it is with great pleasure that we support this important event and recognize the Teachers of the Year who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to their profession and to their students.

Congratulations and thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Don Macleod'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Don Macleod
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
National Semiconductor

A message from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Santa Clara County Office of Education's 42nd annual Teacher Recognition Celebration, where district Teachers of the Year gather to receive well-deserved honors for their remarkable work in the classroom, in the community, on the stage, on the playing field – wherever their knowledge, talent and perseverance take them.

Teaching is not an easy job – especially in this era of budget austerity – but I don't have to tell you it is one of the most rewarding occupations there is. I am proud to call myself a teacher.

You are getting your students ready for tomorrow, and the day after, and the day after that. You are the ones that see the future in their eyes and give them the tools they'll need to brave this ever-changing world and become economically productive citizens.

Please accept my most sincere gratitude for your enthusiastic and innovative approach to teaching. Thank you for your dedication to your students. They are indeed lucky to have you, as are we all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Torlakson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tom Torlakson



Teacher Recognition Celebration is presented by
the Santa Clara County Office of Education with the
help of generous corporate and community sponsors.

Platinum Sponsor (\$10,000 and above)

Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union
National Semiconductor Foundation
San Jose Mercury News

Silver Sponsor (\$500 to \$4,999)

300 San Jose	RAFT – Resource Area for Teachers
All Ears Audio Books	San Jose Repertory Theatre
Children’s Discovery Museum	Santa Clara County School Boards Association
Classic Car Wash (Campbell)	Sixth District PTA
Electronic Arts	Symphony Silicon Valley
Happy Hollow	Target
Marine Science Institute	The Tech Museum of Innovation
Milligan News Co.	Theatreworks Silicon Valley
Opera San Jose	
Psycho Donuts	

Friends of Teacher Recognition (Up to \$500)

Cinnabar Winery	San Jose Museum of Art
Citti’s Florist	Santana Row
Peet’s Coffee & Tea	Whole Foods

Commendations were given by:

Virtually every local, state and federal legislator
representing Santa Clara County.



Teacher Recognition is coordinated by the Santa Clara County
Office of Education.

Event production:	Invitation and program
Mike Bromberg	printing:
Kevin Chomintra	Lee Blevins, Print Services
Larry Slonaker	
Andrea Woodhouse	Video:
	Jim Risinger
	Jason Sholl
Graphic Design:	Jeremy Smith
Mike Bromberg	Lindsey Wong

The Significance of the Teacher Recognition Celebration

The Santa Clara County Teacher Recognition Celebration has endured for more than 40 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. But the gala ceremony's humble origins can be traced back 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, Teacher Recognition Celebration has grown from a small gathering to a gala event that draws more than 300 people. But the mission remains the same: to honor excellence in teaching.

Thirty-one teachers were selected in 2011 by their school districts for their exceptional ability to achieve the following:

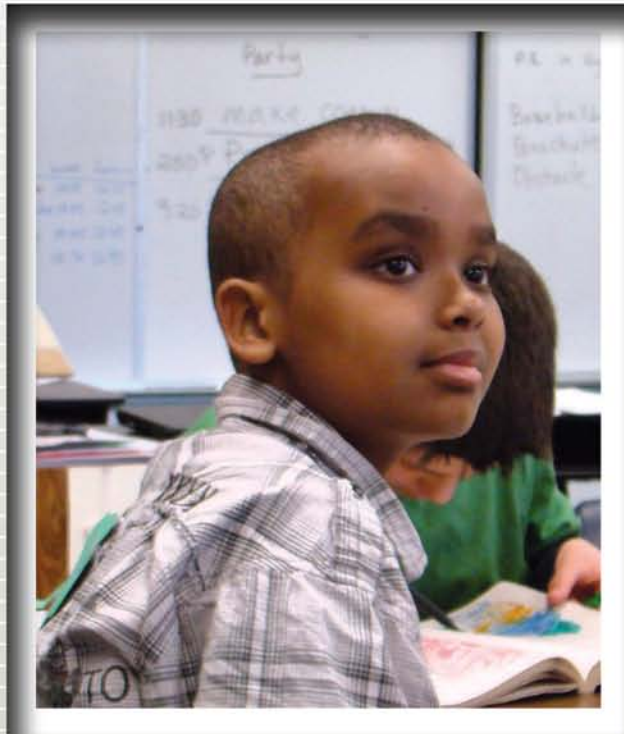
- communicate subject matter in an interesting, relevant, and effective manner;

- 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;
- show a sincere commitment to be a champion for students, schools, and community.

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.

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.



County Board of Education

Leon F. Beauchman • Michael Chang
Joseph Di Salvo • Julia Hover-Smoot
Grace H. Mah • Craig Mann • Anna Song

County Superintendent of Schools

Charles Weis, Ph.D.

Santa Clara County  Office of Education

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