



*43rd annual
Santa Clara County*

Teacher Recognition Celebration

September 27, 2012

Santa Clara County  Office of Education

*43rd annual
Santa Clara County*

Teacher Recognition Celebration

WELCOME

Justin Read, *piano*

Kevin Murray, *drums*

Rishi Sinha, *guitar*

Community School of Music and Arts

Xavier De La Torre, Ed.D.

County Superintendent of Schools

Santa Clara County Office of Education

Janice Edwards

Talk Show Host & Executive Producer

TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Presented by

Joseph Di Salvo, *President*

Santa Clara County Board of Education

and

Kathleen Sullivan, *President*

Santa Clara County School Boards Association

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS STEM TEACHING AWARDS

Presented by

Dave Heacock, *Senior Vice President and Manager*

Texas Instruments Silicon Valley Analog

Co-sponsor of Teacher Recognition Celebration

RECEPTION

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

Please turn off cellular phones.



Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2012

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2012



ELIZABETH MURRAY

Alum Rock Union School District

Goss Elementary School

Fourth grade

Years teaching: 7

Years with district: 5

“Elizabeth’s effectiveness as a teacher is evident in the success of her students. Through creative lessons, she skillfully engages her students with interactive strategies such as chants, games and hands-on activities.”

– *Alum Rock Union School District*

“I try to empower my students with the reading and math skills they need to be successful in life. I set high expectations for behavior and academics, and I use a standards-based instruction to focus my students’ learning. I expect everyone to try their best every day.”

– *Elizabeth Murray*



SUSAN SCHADECK-CHASE

Berryessa Union School District

Piedmont Middle School

Instrumental Music

Years teaching: 17

Years with district: 14

“Susan not only provides excellent programs for students, she goes above and beyond to support colleagues as well. Parents love and respect Susan for the guidance, encouragement and positive role modeling she does for their children.” – *Berryessa Union School District*

“I love teaching young minds and watching them grow into wonderful young musicians and people. I believe that every student can be successful in anything they put their minds to. With encouragement and guidance, they learn to work together as a team and realize how successful they can be with the effort they put forth.”

– *Susan Schadeck-Chase*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2012



CATHERINE LORIGAN

Cambrian School District

Ida Price Middle School

Music

Years teaching: 15

Years with district: 15

“Catherine has built a legendary music program that is the pride of the district. Catherine is among the first teachers to arrive and the last to leave school each day, and she spends her weekends at school during the competition season.” – *Cambrian School District*

“I am proud to say that in the 15 years that I have been at Ida Price Middle School, the music program has grown from one band of 16 students to a fully inclusive program of percussion, vocal, and instrumental music with almost one-third of the school population involved. I believe our music department stands as proof of the commitment to arts, creativity, critical thinking and ‘whole child’ education that is the Cambrian School District philosophy.”

– *Catherine Lorigan*



RACHELLE BURNSIDE

Campbell Union High School District

Branham High School

Advanced Placement English/Journalism

Years teaching: 13

Years with district: 13

“Rachelle has a tremendous reputation for being a highly effective and highly influential instructor, while still maintaining a positive rapport with her students.” – *Campbell Union High School District*

“I’m proud of the fact we have open enrollment in our AP classes. Any student who is willing to put in the work and effort can take the class and improve their reading and writing skills. I love watching the light switch on when a student who has struggled makes an important connection or finally masters a skill.”

– *Rachelle Burnside*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2012



JOSHUA PIZZICA

Campbell Union School District
Monroe Middle School
Eighth-grade Science/AVID
Years teaching: 13
Years with district: 7

“Joshua exemplifies the concepts of rigor, relevance and relationships. He has high expectations for student behavior and academics, and he creates a classroom environment in which students are supported to meet these expectations. Students flourish under his guidance – both academically and socially.” – *Campbell Union School District*

“My goal as a teacher is to help all of my students become so motivated and skilled as learners that they don’t need me as a teacher anymore. To that end, I use research-proven principles of behavior analysis as well as academic literacy routines to improve students’ productivity and critical thinking skills.” – *Joshua Pizzica*



JESSICA DAVIS

County-authorized charter schools
Discovery Charter School
Fourth and fifth grades
Years teaching: 8
Years with district: 3

“Jessica’s lessons are exciting and engaging, involve her students’ input, and are based on her in-depth knowledge of what her students need. She frequently incorporates art and music into her lessons, projects and assignments based on lessons that are either completely student-driven or involve student choice.” – *Discovery Charter School*

“I teach full-time at a highly demanding, parent-participation school and work as a Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) coach for two new teachers on staff.” – *Jessica Davis*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2012



GUADALUPE MOCTEZUMA

County Office of Education
San Jose Head Start
Early Learning
Years teaching: 21
Years with COE: 21

“Guadalupe collaborates with mentor coaches, and continues to inspire her staff to engage with parents, and is always with the best interests of program quality for children.”

– *County Office of Education*

“My teaching philosophy is to promote education in different ways by using the community, values and culture that surround the children’s life. I want to help children become successful at a young age in all areas.” – *Guadalupe Moctezuma*



AMI BYRNE

Cupertino Union School District
Eisenhower Elementary School
Fifth grade
Years teaching: 10
Years with district: 8

“Ami is a wonderful teacher who brings both enthusiasm and a sense of professionalism to her classroom. Her organization, coupled with her 21st century teaching philosophy and skillset, makes her classroom a dynamic environment.”

– *Cupertino Union School District*

“My commitment is to making social studies relevant, exciting and engaging for all students. I participated in the Colonial Williamsburg Teacher’s Institute Summer 2011 and it has greatly informed my teaching and use of primary sources, investigation and simulation to bring history alive for my students.”

– *Ami Byrne*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2012



SUDHIR KARANDIKAR

East Side Union High School District

Mt. Pleasant High School

Mathematics

Years teaching: 16

Years with district: 16

“Sudhir has transformed our AP calculus program into a very successful program. He has increased the percentage of students passing the exam from 35 percent to 90 percent. He has taken the lead in aligning our math curriculum and assessments to the CSTs.” – *East Side Union High School District*

“In 2008, 91 of 104 students passed the Advanced Placement Calculus AB exam. This was the highest percentage of pass rates for a large group in the district. In 2012, 17 of 25 students passed the Advanced Placement Calculus BC exam.”

– *Sudhir Karandikar*



PENNY BROWN

Evergreen School District

Laurelwood Elementary School

Special Day second and third grades

Years teaching: 28

Years with district: 15

“Penny has a teaching style that motivates students and makes learning appropriately challenging and engaging. She builds on students’ strengths and meets the individual needs of each student. Penny advocates for her students and works to ensure that students are always included in general education experiences and activities.”

– *Evergreen School District*

“As a special education teacher, I am committed to providing my students with a positive, safe, nurturing environment where they can reach their full potential academically, socially and behaviorally.”

– *Penny Brown*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2012



MARILIA GERALDO CASTLE

Franklin-McKinley School District
Ramblewood School
Kindergarten
Years teaching: 23
Years with district: 20

“Marilia is a dynamic teacher. She finds ways to engage all of her students in learning. Marilia embraces the newest research to ensure kindergarten students are successful in first grade.”
– *Franklin-McKinley School District*

“I always believed that every student could attain high levels of achievement. My greatest joy and achievement was when they believed it.” – *Marilia Geraldo Castle*



NELDA CLARK

Fremont Union High School District
Lynbrook High School
Advanced Placement English
Years teaching: 27
Years with district: 17

“Nelda is a wise mentor to her students and colleagues, a visionary guide to the English department, and a dedicated advocate for the essential human learning that is found within the study of literature.” – *Fremont Union High School District*

“Teaching students to explore a literary text by becoming sensitized to the nuances of the language, learning to interact with the text and then grappling with the issues raised in the text has been one of the most satisfying aspects of my career.” – *Nelda Clark*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2012



MARITZA RAMOS SALCIDO

Gilroy Unified School District
Las Animas School
Fourth-grade dual immersion
Years teaching: 11
Years with district: 7

“Maritza infuses the love of reading in each student. She is a team player and has led all fourth graders in deep collaboration.”
– *Gilroy Unified School District*

“As a teacher, I not only teach every day but I also learn every day. With an open mind, flexibility, and collaboration, one is able to provide the optimal learning and working environment.”
– *Maritza Ramos Salcido*



FRAN EDWARDS

Loma Prieta Joint Union School District
C.T. English Middle School
Physical Education
Years teaching: 40
Years with district: 40

“Fran is the one who champions both her colleagues and her students. When making decisions, she puts the needs of students first.” – *Loma Prieta Joint Union School District*

“Being an educator brings so many rewards. There is no greater feeling than having a student say, ‘Thank you for pushing me so that I could achieve my goals,’ or, even better, ‘Thanks for believing in me.’” – *Fran Edwards*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2012



NIKI MITCHELL

Los Altos School District
Gardner Bullis School
Sixth grade
Years teaching: 24
Years with district: 12

“Niki is dedicated to her profession, to her colleagues, and especially to her students. She truly believes it takes a community of dedicated, inspired teachers to bring out the excellence of all students.” – *Los Altos School District*

“For me, the pleasure in teaching is seeing the light shining in my students’ eyes. I have worked on developing units that spark interest and constantly update them. The joy of learning and being life-long learners are my gifts to them.” – *Niki Mitchell*



JIM FREDETTE

Los Gatos Union School District
Raymond J. Fisher Middle School
History/Video Production
Years teaching: 6
Years with district: 6

“Jim has worked hard to develop his practice to reach all of his students and create a great classroom atmosphere for student achievement. Jim is always available and willing to help whenever the opportunity arises to make school ‘work’ better for students, teachers or parents.” – *Los Gatos Union School District*

“In the classroom, I encourage students to think critically. My goal is to help students understand that history is more than great events that must be memorized, but, rather, it is a series of small choices and their consequences that must be understood.” – *Jim Fredette*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2012



MIKE DAVEY

Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District
Saratoga High School
Social Studies
Years teaching: 20
Years with district: 20

“Mike has endeavored to provide unique and stimulating experiences, connecting with students and motivating them to explore and achieve their full potential.” – *Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District*

“Facilitating student understanding, creativity and problem solving abilities energizes me to work with the students on a daily basis. I am fortunate enough to go to work each day as part of a team of spectacular teachers who hold these goals dear and are determined to help our students prepare for the challenges of the 21st century. To have students return with success stories of overcoming difficulties they’ve faced makes all of my efforts worthwhile and continues to motivate me to improve as a teacher.” – *Mike Davey*



PERLITA N. BALANGUE

Luther Burbank School District
Luther Burbank School
Kindergarten
Years teaching: 19
Years with district: 5

“Perlita provides the rigor, the skill and the expertise to teach 5-year-olds with laughter and love. An extraordinary teacher, Perlita deliberately and with cheerful care makes lessons ‘just right’ for every child, every day.” – *Luther Burbank School District*

“I believe that every child is a unique individual, and, when provided with the right tools, every child is capable of achieving academic success. My greatest hope is that my kids understand their own potential, realizing that with hard work and determination, anything is possible.” – *Perlita N. Balangue*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2012



SHIRLEY J. ATKINS

Metropolitan Education District

Metropolitan Adult Education Program

High school diploma independent study program

Years teaching: 12

Years with district: 6

“Shirley has moved and consolidated a very successful independent study program for those adult students who are working and cannot attend regular high school diploma classes. In addition, Shirley is the curriculum specialist and supports teachers, students and tutors in achieving successful outcomes.”

– *Metropolitan Education District*

“Being an adult education instructor has been a most rewarding experience. I look forward to graduation every year because I know some of the struggles and challenges that our students had to overcome to reach this goal. It is inspiring to see how adult education not only benefits the students in our programs but also has a positive influence in their families and in our community.”

– *Shirley J. Atkins*



DEANNA SAINTEN

Milpitas Unified School District

Pomeroy Elementary School

Sixth grade

Years teaching: 5

Years with district: 5

“Deanna is a role model for students, teachers and parents alike, inspiring everyone she touches to strive for their personal best. Former students regularly come back seeking assistance with middle school problems – both academic and personal. She mentors former students about making good choices and models good decision making herself.” – *Milpitas Unified School District*

“I am passionate about working with youth and providing our underserved populations with empowering experiences. I started and have advised a service club for sixth graders to promote civic engagement and community involvement. It has been truly inspiring to participate in the projects the sixth graders develop in order to better their world around them.” – *Deanna Sainten*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2012



TYLER READY

Moreland School District
Anderson Elementary School
Second grade
Years teaching: 3
Years with district: 3

“One of the first words that comes to mind when thinking about Tyler is ‘enthusiasm.’ Tyler puts her students first and is constantly creating new lessons that are energizing, fun and standards-based.”
– *Moreland School District*

“Each year, I take the time to build a strong classroom community based on respect and cooperation. Students learn how to support each other and work together to meet our goals. The comfort of my classroom allows them to take risks, try new things and realize their full potential. My greatest achievement is knowing they have learned the skills to be successful long after they leave my classroom.” – *Tyler Ready*



TERRI CRAIG

Morgan Hill Unified School District
El Torro Elementary School
Second grade
Years teaching: 36
Years with district: 36

“Terri is an exemplary teacher with the gift of understanding how children learn and the skill to deliver her craft to each student, helping them reach their full potential. Along with her clear focus on improving instruction and student achievement, she has become a true leader in the district.” – *Morgan Hill Unified School District*

“I have loved the creativity I found in teaching. I worked hard to instill in children the love of reading, and to find the beauty in mathematics. My ultimate wish was for children to believe that they were capable of doing anything they put their mind to.” – *Terri Craig*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2012



LOUISE KRASNOW

Mount Pleasant School District
Mount Pleasant Elementary School
Fifth grade
Years teaching: 13
Years with district: 12

“Louise uses her creativity and knowledge to present the fifth-grade curriculum. Her students are very excited about learning and being in her class.” – *Mount Pleasant School District*

“There is no greater reward than seeing a student discover knowledge first-hand. Using rich literature, primary documents, realia and hands-on math, I watch this amazing process unfold. By instilling self-discovery, my students love learning for a lifetime.” – *Louise Krasnow*



CYNDEE MAI NGUYEN

Mountain View Whisman School District
Bubb Elementary School
First grade
Years teaching: 7
Years with district: 7

“Cyndee’s understanding of how children learn is very evident in the instruction and implementation of her reading and writing program. She has an incredible way of implementing new materials so that it appears to be easy, and is able to quickly put together lessons designed specifically so that students have a deeper understanding of grade-level content standards.” – Mountain View Whisman School District

“Teaching kids to read, write and think is not just part of my job: I view it as a moral imperative. Education is the key to achieving social justice and equality.” – *Cyndee Mai Nguyen*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2012



CHRISTA WEMMER

Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District
Los Altos High School
World Studies
Years teaching: 13
Years with district: 9

“Christa has devoted her attention to the most struggling students at our schools. She takes the lead in arranging for parent meetings with underperforming students and is highly collaborative with the other teachers. Her belief that all students can succeed, and her willingness to find inventive ways to meet their needs makes Christa an excellent teacher.” – *Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District*

“I have collaborated with an interdisciplinary team of ninth-grade core teachers, as well as administration and counseling, to create an intervention program that addresses students’ academic remediation and social development needs. We believe that all students can succeed at our high school.” – *Christa Wemmer*



JAN BRUNO

Oak Grove School District
Leonard Herman Intermediate School
Mathematics
Years teaching: 33
Years with district: 33

“Jan has the ability to reach all students, engage all students and teach all students. She has years of experience working with honors students, on-level students and below-grade-level students. One thing that never changes is Jan’s caring way and the relationships that she develops with her students that enable them to grow and learn.” – *Oak Grove School District*

“I have been so fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend more than 30 years in a profession that I love. My philosophy has been to be enthusiastic about my subject, to believe in my students’ ability to learn, to collaborate with my colleagues and to always keep a good sense of humor.” – *Jan Bruno*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2012



MICHAEL R. McCLELLAN

San Jose Unified School District

Castillero Middle School

U.S. History

Years teaching: 8

Years with district: 8

“Michael is a highly exemplary teacher who finds creative ways to make his curriculum come alive for his students. He focuses his efforts on all students – including those with special needs – to assure everyone has the opportunity to succeed academically.”
– *San Jose Unified School District*

“I am passionate about U.S. history and love to see those magic moments when history comes alive for my students. My goal is to give students a sense of hope and possibility for their future. I strive to form a deep bond of trust with every student who walks through my door. I also have a passion for collaborating with colleagues, and infusing our instruction with technology, rigor and relevance.” – *Michael R. McClellan*



DIANE HIJOS DI BARI

Santa Clara Unified School District

Wilcox High School

School psychologist

Years in profession: 36

Years with district: 33

“Diane is someone who always has the answer and who always has time for anyone who steps in her office. Diane’s compassion, moral character, intelligence and comforting and loving nature makes her the true professional that she is.”
– *Santa Clara Unified School District*

“It has been a great honor to work collaboratively with my dedicated special and regular education professionals over the years. A major skillset for all school psychologists is to advocate for and to support students in reaching their full potential. Our role is to empower all children, teachers, principals, parents and support staff with the knowledge that children are ‘able,’ not ‘disabled.’ There is no better profession than being an educator and for me, it is being a ‘special educator.’” – *Diane Hijos di Bari*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2012



JULIE BROWN PAOLINI

Saratoga Union School District

Foothill Elementary School

Special Day class kindergarten to third grade

Years teaching: 30

Years with district: 11

“Julie is a dedicated and caring educator with boundless energy, commitment and drive. Julie cares deeply about all students and the staff who work and learn with them.”

– *Saratoga Union School District*

“Each child is unique and has something special to offer to the world. I have learned from each and every one of my students and feel privileged to have been able to help them work towards their potential.” – *Julie Brown Paolini*



MEREDITH RIETDORF

Sunnyvale School District

Cumberland Elementary School

Kindergarten

Years teaching: 7

Years with district: 7

“Meredith is a dedicated teacher who does whatever it takes to reach out and meet the needs of every student in her class. She consistently makes a positive impact, not only on her students, but also on the larger school community.” – *Sunnyvale School District*

“As a kindergarten teacher, I believe my most important job is to instill each child with a deep love of learning. It is such a joy to watch my students grow into confident and independent learners who love coming to school.” – *Meredith Rietdorf*

SANTA CLARA COUNTY TEACHERS OF THE YEAR 2012



BEVERLY HOOPER

Union School District
Dartmouth Middle School
Social Science
Years teaching: 27
Years with district: 24

“Beverly is a caring person and makes all of her students and staff feel respected and important. Every family who has had a student in her class wants all their children to be in her class.”

– *Union School District*

“My philosophy in education revolves around making sure I find the right way for my students to be successful in my class and hopefully in their lives. I want them to be active in matters that concern them both educationally and personally.” – *Beverly Hooper*

Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Award Winners 2012



CHANNY CORNEJO

East Side Union High School District

Santa Teresa High School

Advanced Placement Statistics/Math Analysis

Years teaching: 17

Years with district: 12

“Channy is an integral part of our math department and she has helped to excite our students to take four years of math. You would be hard-pressed to find someone more dedicated to her profession.”

– *Principal Greg Louie*

“I would like to share with my students how math is as exciting as reading a novel or as riveting as solving a puzzle or mystery. I want my students to realize that they don’t have to be born ‘good at math’ to understand its beauty and appreciate its usefulness in their lives.”

– *Channy Cornejo*



DEBRA DIMAS

East Side Union High School District

Santa Teresa High School

Advanced Placement Physics

Years teaching: 23

Years with district: 23

“Debra serves as one of the science department chairs for a department that actively pursues excellence for all students. During her tenure as department chair, a large majority of our students are taking science for four years, well exceeding graduation and UC/CSU requirements.” – *Principal Greg Louie*

“I love teaching physics because it is challenging for students but relates to their lives. It forces them to think critically and not just memorize facts or list back answers in a set pattern. Many of my students tell me that after they take my class, they don’t look at the world the same way.” – *Debra Dimas*

Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Award Winners 2012



BILL DUNBAR

Palo Alto Unified School District

Gunn High School

Physics/Engineering/Robotics

Years teaching: 23

Years with district: 17

“Parents and students rave about the life-changing experience that they have in this class. Bill coaches students to take the initiative, to develop their own projects, and to become responsible for their own engineering experience.” – *Principal Katya Villalobos*

“Each year, I have 180 days to work with students as they explore the worlds of physics and engineering, and I try to make the most of each day. I am enthusiastic about teaching physics and engineering because I love working with young people and seeing the light bulb come on when they are proud of their work.” – *Bill Dunbar*



BERNADETTE SALGARINO

East Side Union High School District

James Lick High School

Mathematics

Years teaching: 24

Years with district: 11

“Bernadette is a dedicated educator who directs her skillset to the improvement of her instruction and the school-wide systems on which students’ academic performance and future options depend.” – *Principal Glenn Vander Zee*

“My classroom clicks because I nurture positive interpersonal relationships with students by making sure they feel safe and everyone is treated fairly.” – *Bernadette Salgarino*

Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Award Winners 2012



MIKE SBARBARO

Luther Burbank School District

Luther Burbank School

Eighth grade

Years teaching: 15

Years with district: 1

“Mike’s love for teaching is evident in everything he does, whether he is tutoring students in algebra after school, finding creative ways for students to apply their knowledge or coaching basketball. You can be sure that the students will enjoy and remember what they have learned from this excellent teacher.”

– *Principal Marvelyn Maldonado*

“My enthusiasm for teaching exists within the wondrous moments when a student makes a connection to a concept. Any means that accelerates, facilitates or nurtures this process is something to get excited about.” – *Mike Sbarbaro*



TARA SIKORSKI

San Jose Unified School District

San Jose High School

International Baccalaureate Biology/

Project Lead the Way Biotech

Years teaching: 8

Years with district: 7

“Tara is passionate about her subject matter. She is extremely knowledgeable about science and relishes the task of sharing her subject with students. She develops lessons that are engaging and relevant to teenagers.” – *Principal Cary Catching*

“I particularly enjoy teaching my students to make observations about the world in which they live. It is important that they realize that they are connected to a larger ecosystem. Biology seeks to explain the hows and the whys of the nature of life; when it is taught well, the entire world becomes your classroom.”

– *Tara Sikorski*

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 2012 Teacher Recognition Celebration. We are all very proud of you and the exemplary work you do on behalf of our county's children.

No doubt your selected profession is one of the most important for a society attempting to have extraordinary results for its diverse population of learners. To do the work in California is more challenging than in most states that invest more in the public education of their children. Irrespective of the investment or lack thereof, teachers like you work hard to make teaching the craft to provide all children with the foundation for life's success.

The 37 teachers we honor this evening are the cornerstone of our society. 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 encourage others to go into the difficult, however enriching career.

We must be vocal about increasing funding for all aspects of public education (preschool through grade 16), including counseling, libraries, health services, visual and performing arts, sciences, career technical education and world languages.

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, with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Joseph Di Salvo
President
Santa Clara County Board of Education

Congratulations from the County Superintendent of Schools



A fine 43-year-old tradition that honors the region's very best teachers, the Santa Clara County Teacher Recognition Celebration is the largest and oldest celebration of public school educators in the state.

And as the newly appointed County Superintendent of Schools, I am honored to join you tonight and help celebrate the fine work of Silicon Valley's educators. No one deserves praise and recognition more than teachers.

After spending 10 years in the classroom myself, I know firsthand the challenges and struggles that teachers confront daily. Despite these hurdles, so many of our students are thriving and flourishing. This is thanks to teachers' attention to students' special needs and unique situations. All the teachers we honor tonight have been recognized for that fine attention, as well as their classroom achievement and commitment to the profession and community.

Celebrating teachers each year is a labor of love for the Santa Clara County Office of Education, which coordinates this event. It would not be possible without unwavering support from its corporate and community partners – in particular, Texas Instruments (TI), the San Jose Mercury News and the Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union.

Indeed, thanks to the generosity of TI, a new facet has been added to this year's celebration: the TI STEM Teaching Awards, which honor the achievement of educators in the subjects of science, technology, math and engineering.

No matter their subject matter, teachers deserve our heartiest praise, applause and thanks. Please join me tonight in thanking our guests of honor for sharing their passion, time and talent, and for being true champions of students, schools and community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "X. De La Torre". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Xavier De La Torre, Ed.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 18th year as a co-sponsor of the Teacher Recognition Celebration, and we extend our congratulations to the 2012 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 Texas Instruments



At Texas Instruments, we recognize that supporting education today is critical to the success of our company and our communities tomorrow.

We strive to build an ecosystem of innovation by supporting initiatives that increase teacher effectiveness and student achievement in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, a top priority for the company.

TI is excited to have broadened our presence in Silicon Valley since its acquisition of National Semiconductor, and we are committed to improving education and addressing the critical needs facing our community. We partner with excellent organizations like the Santa Clara County Office of Education to provide teachers with the tools, training and support they need to engage and inspire their students.

We also believe in the importance of honoring outstanding teachers and are proud to be a sponsor of the Santa Clara County Office of Education's annual Teacher Recognition event. To build upon this effort, we are pleased to announce the inaugural Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Awards. The awards honor 7th-12th grade teachers who consistently demonstrate quality instruction, inspire interest and enhance student achievement in STEM subjects.

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 'Dave Heacock', written over a horizontal line.

Dave Heacock

Senior Vice President and Manager

Texas Instruments, Silicon Valley Analog

Santa Clara County Teacher Recognition Celebration 2012

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

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

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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, the 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 2012 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.

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 TI STEM Teaching Awards were added to the event to acknowledge the growing emphasis placed on preparing students for the global, high-tech workforce. A panel of judges selected six teachers of subjects of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in grades seven through 12 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.



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