

Santa Clara County  Office of Education

49th Annual
Teacher Recognition Celebration



October 22, 2018 • Campbell Heritage Theatre



49th annual
Santa Clara County

Teacher Recognition Celebration

RECEPTION

Fremont Union High School Chamber Orchestra
Joe Kelly, Director

WELCOME

Westmont High School Musical Theatre
Jeff Bengford, Director

MASTERS OF CEREMONIES

Dr. Mary Ann Dewan
*County Superintendent of Schools
Santa Clara County Office of Education*

and

Ron Gonzales
*President and CEO
Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley*

GUEST SPEAKER

Rebecca Reynolds Lytle
*CEO
Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union*

TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Presented by
Rosemary Kamei
*President
Santa Clara County Board of Education*

and

Ellen Wheeler
*President
Santa Clara County School Boards Association*

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS


STEM TEACHING AWARDS

Presented by
Victoria Tung
*Director of Government and Public Affairs
Texas Instruments*

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

Please silence cellular phones.

#SCCStarTeachers



Santa Clara County
Teachers
of the Year
2018

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2018



ADRIANE MARIE VANE

Alum Rock Union School District
Joseph George Middle School
Eighth Grade English Language Arts
Years in profession: 10
Years with district: 10

“Adriane is a dynamic teacher who implements a multitude of approaches to connect her students to the curriculum. Students become immersed in the world they read and write about, and they form a love for learning while being exposed to complex texts and worldly information.”

– Alum Rock Union School District

“One of my earliest goals as a teacher was to create a classroom environment that incorporates various types of media to engage student learning. I believe that the more students interact in a lesson, the more invested they will be.” – *Adriane Marie Vane*



CLAUDIA L. FOUNTAIN

Berryessa Union School District
Vinci Park Elementary School
Third to Fifth Grade Music
Years in profession: 25
Years with district: 25

“Ms. Fountain’s exceptional music lessons add value to Berryessa Union School District. Teachers, parents, and the community members are grateful for her contributions to the overall quality of the Vinci Park Elementary School offerings to students and the community.”

– *Berryessa Union School District*

“As a longtime musician, it is very exciting to teach the children to play a string or wind instrument and to help them experience making music with others. Music reading teaches them a new language that opens a gateway to play music in any style they might choose. Music touches the mind, heart, and soul.” – *Claudia L. Fountain*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2018



DEBORAH STEIN

Cambrian School District

Steindorf STEAM

Sixth to Eighth Grade English Language Arts, Social Studies,
and Leadership

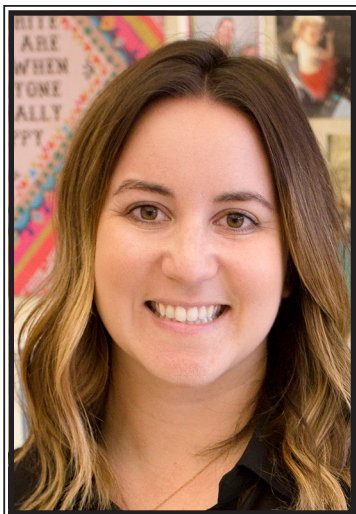
Years in profession: 13

Years with district: 13

“We could not be more proud to name Deborah Stein as our teacher of the year. Deborah goes out of her way to develop close relationships with her students. She builds trusting relationships and holds high standards while providing support that allows each child to achieve academically and socially to their personal best. Deborah is Steindorf Strong!”

– *Cambrian School District*

“Building a community of empathy, trust, and high expectations in the classroom unleashes students’ confidence and competence to take risks and achieve beyond their wildest dreams. The same can be said for teachers too!” – *Deborah Stein*



COURTNEY VAN BENTHUISEN

Campbell Union High School District

Del Mar High School

Ninth to Tenth Grade Special Education English

Years in profession: 6

Years with district: 6

“Courtney is an invaluable member of the Del Mar community. She deserves teacher of the year for her dedication to students, eagerness to support our staff, and her undying commitment to the Del Mar vision. We celebrate Courtney and the difference she makes every day for kids!” – *Campbell Union High School District*

“My philosophy is simple: all students can learn when given the opportunity. In these past six years as head of the Special Education Department, I have seen my students do amazing things through the support and resources my team provides. I am humbled by the opportunity to work with these young people and see them reach their potential.”

– *Courtney Van Benthuisen*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2018



AMY BLOOM VANDERBOSCH

Campbell Union School District
Rolling Hills Middle School
Sixth to Eighth Grade English Language Development,
Equity TOSA

Years in profession: 23

Years with district: 18

“We are proud to nominate Amy for Teacher of the Year. She is a masterful teacher and coach to both her colleagues and her students. She consistently adds her own warm personal touch to every single one of her relationships. Amy always manages to elicit the very best from everyone she works with, adults and students alike!”

– *Campbell Union School District*

“I’m proud that our district recognizes the importance and challenge of changing our practice to match our philosophy – that an equitable education is due to all children. Beyond that, I’m thankful to be among those leading the charge.” – *Amy Bloom Vanderbosch*



JESSICA DEANDA

County-Authorized Charter School
Sunrise Middle School
Sixth Grade English Language Arts

Years in profession: 17

Years with district: 3

“We cannot think of a better choice for Teacher of the Year! Ms. DeAnda is a dynamic and involved teacher who offers a great deal of experience to the school setting. Her presence and commitment make our school a strong and nurturing environment for our students.”

– *Sunrise Middle School*

“I successfully structured and implemented Sunrise’s Response to Intervention Program for English, focusing on English Learners, Special Ed students, and Tier III students. Due in part to these efforts, our school’s statewide test scores have dramatically increased in English, especially compared to similar downtown schools.” – *Jessica DeAnda*



Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2018



JANET M. BLAKE

County Office of Education
Oster Elementary
Kindergarten to Fifth Grade Deaf/Hard of Hearing Students,
Inclusion Specialist
Years in profession: 43
Years with district: 43

“Jan is a tremendous resource with all her experience, wisdom, expertise, and patience, to all our staff as well as staff outside the DHOH program. She is the “go to” person who people first think of for support when they have a question about almost everything.”
– *Santa Clara County Office of Education*

“As a teacher who works with deaf children who are included into general education classes, I have a firm belief that the most important thing in the education of children is to have teamwork with all staff involved in the education of that child and with that child’s family. This builds self-esteem in children and rapport with families and ultimately leads to the success of students. It really does take a village!” – *Janet M. Blake*



STEPHANIE C. PARK

Cupertino Union School District
West Valley Elementary School
Fifth Grade
Years in profession: 16
Years with district: 14

“Stephanie has been a gift to our District both through her knowledge and expertise, but even more by her kindness, compassion, and desire to lift people up every day. She is an exceptional person.”
– *Cupertino Union School District*

“Cupertino Union School District has provided me with a wealth of opportunities from teaching, coaching, and mentoring from TK to fifth grade and most recently, the challenging, yet incredibly rewarding Human Growth and Development project. We are a community of givers and receivers of learning, and we all play a role in helping our students further their lifelong journey.” – *Stephanie C. Park*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2018



HERNÁN E. DÍAZ

East Side Union High School District
Evergreen Valley High School
Year 3 Spanish and AP Spanish Language
Years in profession: 17
Years with district: 15

“Hernán strives to ensure that students leave his classroom confident in their ability to communicate in a new language. He is dedicated to raising the bar for his students, encouraging them to value their educational opportunities and instilling in them a sense of responsibility and community.” – *East Side Union High School District*

“Being a language learner makes me aware of the importance of learning a second language as well. The most rewarding thing for me is to see my students fall in love with Spanish and use it in their lives and careers. Languages connect people and the relationships that I have built with my students make this career that much more rewarding.”
– *Hernán E. Díaz*



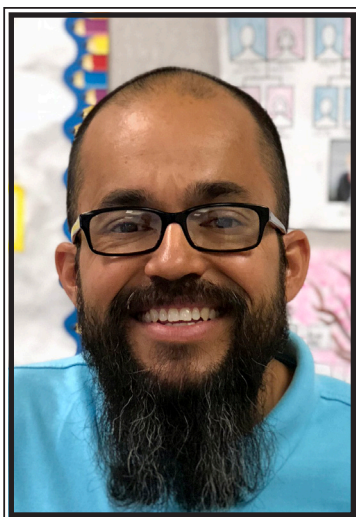
MARILYN GOLDSMITH

Evergreen School District
Millbrook Elementary School
Fifth and Sixth Grade Combination Class
Years in profession: 33
Years with district: 33

“Marilyn is an outstanding teacher and can be counted on to take on any project, task, or responsibility. She has served students for over 30 years and is deeply committed to her work. She is an absolute professional in every sense of the word and is well respected by her students, her colleagues, and the Millbrook Elementary School community. We couldn’t be more proud to have Marilyn as Evergreen’s Teacher of the Year!”
– *Evergreen School District*

“I am honored to represent a district of strong, dedicated, and innovative educators. I feel fortunate to be part of a community which values collaboration, service to others, and lifelong learning. I am thankful for a career that has allowed me to develop my craft, grow as a leader, and share my passion.” – *Marilyn Goldsmith*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2018



RODOLFO DURAN

Franklin-McKinley School District
Bridges Academy
Seventh and Eighth Grade Mathematics
Years in profession: 18
Years with district: 18

“The students of Bridges Academy enjoy Mr. Duran’s class, and he does a great job motivating them. He is an experienced classroom teacher with many strategies and skills to engage with students at every level. The school would not be the same without his guidance and leadership.”
– *Franklin-McKinley School District*

“I truly believe that every single student has the ability to learn and be successful in their math class. It might take some longer than others to learn and truly understand a concept, but if given time and understanding, they can all become great math students. I am very proud to have taught at an inner city school my entire teaching career. I wake up every morning knowing that this place will make a difference in someone’s life.”
– *Rodolfo Duran*



ANDREA WESTGATE

Fremont Union High School District
Homestead High School
Ninth to 12th Grade Algebra 1 and AP Calculus AB
Years in profession: 22
Years with district: 18

“Andrea was chosen for this honor because of her tireless work ethic and commitment to supporting students at all levels. Her team members find her to be a valuable resource, who has dedicated herself to helping improve instruction not only in her class and on the Homestead campus, but across the entire District.” – *Fremont Union High School District*

“During my time as Algebra 1 team lead, we have worked together to develop an engaging, rigorous program with consistent and high expectations for all students. I am grateful to be working with diverse groups of students, from Algebra to Calculus, who help me see the world, and the course material, through fresh eyes. I am inspired by really listening to them and by helping them develop new confidence as well as new skills.” – *Andrea Westgate*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2018



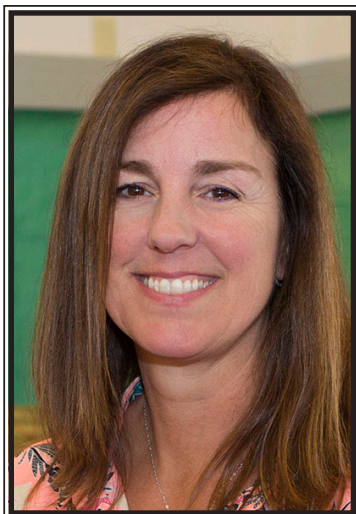
RACHAEL CORNAGGIA

Gilroy Unified School District
South Valley Middle School
Seventh Grade Mathematics
Years in profession: 12
Years with district: 12

“Rachael is an outstanding teacher with strong leadership qualities and an immense heart. She is a person who can be counted to support our students and staff in any capacity. Many students continue to come to visit her and thank her for the support she has given them.”

– *Gilroy Unified School District*

“Many students enter my classroom with a fixed mindset that they cannot be successful in math. My job is to create a nurturing environment for all my students. I have the responsibility to break through their math anxiety and show them they can be successful. Math should be fun and accessible to everyone.” – *Rachael Cornaggia*



KAT RAY

Loma Prieta Joint Union School District
Loma Prieta Elementary School
Kindergarten
Years in profession: 20
Years with district: 18

“Kat is dedicated to her charge of teaching kindergarten and tireless in her pursuit of developmental based teaching. In addition, Kat has been an amazing leader for the California Teachers Association. She cares deeply about her colleagues, stays on top of the political scene and keeps us informed. When we find ourselves needing support, she is there for us!”

– *Loma Prieta Joint Union School District*

“I believe in a developmental teaching approach. I teach the whole child: body, mind, and spirit. I am incredibly lucky to love my job and can't believe my career has become such a true joy in my life.” – *Kat Ray*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2018



CONI CULLIMORE

Los Altos School District

Egan School

Seventh and Eighth Grade Leadership, TOSA

Years in profession: 26

Years with district: 18

“Every day, all day, Coni supports students in a positive and caring manner. She is one of the main reasons that kids feel welcome, safe and valued at Egan School. Building a sense of community is very important to Coni, and this extends to her support of teachers as well.”
– *Los Altos School District*

“I believe strongly in the impact a good teacher can have in students’ lives. That impact begins with knowing students well and building strong relationships. My successes as an educator have been a result of the community I seek to build at our school, with my colleagues, for our students.” – *Coni Cullimore*



DIANNA HILL

Los Gatos Union School District

Louise Van Meter Elementary School

Fifth Grade

Years in profession: 17

Years with district: 12

“Enthusiasm, preparation, and discipline are guiding principles for Dianna’s teaching. She is quick to give credit to others and slow to take credit for herself. She deserves recognition for the many ways in which she improves the profession.” – *Los Gatos Union School District*

“I spearheaded the development and revision of grade level benchmark assessments aligned to district identified prioritized common core state standards. I am dedicated to providing meaningful collaboration between teachers, parents, and administrators in the best interest of students. My strength as an educational leader has brought together teachers to advocate for continuous improvement across the district.” – *Dianna Hill*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2018



RICK ELLIS II

Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District
Saratoga High School
Ninth to 12th Grade U.S. History, Geography, and P.E.
Years in profession: 21
Years with district: 18

“Rick has been a valuable member of the Saratoga High family for seventeen years. Rick works tirelessly to become the best teacher he can be and his versatility has always been a strength. He’s what Saratoga High is all about - work hard, and be kind to all you meet.”
– *Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District*

“In 2009, we developed a physical education program that is student-focused and fitness-based. We were one of the first schools in the nation to transform our curriculum to make it data driven, relevant, and differentiated for students of all different abilities. Teachers and coaches from all over the world inquire about the Saratoga High FalconFit program and we were recognized with a California Distinguished School award for excellence in Physical Education.” – *Rick Ellis II*



JANET L. PLANT

Luther Burbank School District
Luther Burbank School
Transitional Kindergarten to Eighth Grade Graphics & Visual Arts
Years in profession: 36
Years with district: 13

“Ms. Plant has created an outstanding program of Arts Education for all of the school’s K-8 teachers. This year she has created an enrichment program for students identified as intellectually gifted by the District’s Gifted and Talented Education Program.” – *Luther Burbank School District*

“I just finished my third year teaching art to 520+ K-8 students each week. After more than 30 years of teaching elementary curriculum, I appreciate the opportunity to focus on the visual and performing arts standards. The aesthetic valuing, artistic perception, creative expression, historical and cultural context, and connections are a crucial part of our students’ education.” – *Janet L. Plant*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2018



KERRY LeCUSSAN

Metropolitan Education District
Silicon Valley Adult Education

Adult School – ESL Literacy: Beginning, Low, and High

Years in profession: 25

Years with district: 25

“Ms. LeCussan makes a significant impact on our adult learners every day. Her positive attitude, enthusiasm, and nurturing nature allows her students to learn in a safe environment. She is a model teacher for her colleagues.” – *Metropolitan Education District*

“I have taught all the levels of classes in English as a Second Language (ESL). This past year my two classes had the highest level gains on the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) tests. I try and create a friendly environment with students doing daily classes and working together with other students from different countries in partners and groups so they must practice their English language skills.”

– *Kerry LeCussan*



KAILA J. SCHWARTZ

Milpitas Unified School District

Milpitas High School

Ninth to 12th Grade English Language Arts and Theatre

Years in profession: 17

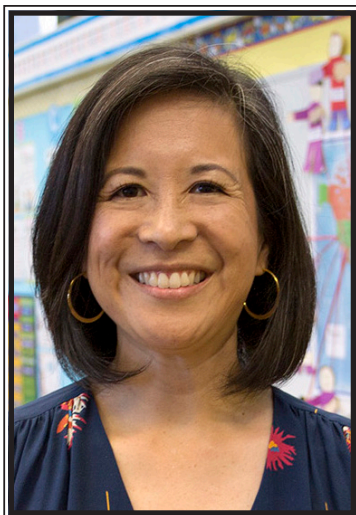
Years with district: 17

“Kaila gives 100%+ to Milpitas High and Milpitas Unified. She arrives early and leaves late most days. Kaila is concerned about all students and works hard to ensure their success. She creates engaging assignments for her honor students as well as her theater students. She is thoughtful in her selection of shows that engage the performers and audience so that they are not only entertained but also challenged to think differently.”

– *Milpitas Unified School District*

“My philosophy on performing arts education: to give students a forum to express themselves; to provide a safe space for them to tell their stories, speak their truths, and develop their self-esteem. I encourage my students to build bridges of understanding across all facets of life while also fostering an appreciation of the arts.” – *Kaila J. Schwartz*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2018



CAROLINE SIENKNECHT

Moreland School District
Country Lane Elementary School
First Grade

Years in profession: 20

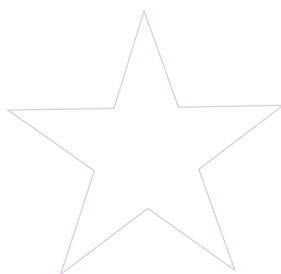
Years with district: 20

“Caroline gives 110% in all aspects of her teaching, with her students, and with the rest of the staff. She has high academic and behavioral expectations for her first graders, and they rise to meet these expectations because she makes it clear she believes in their ability to do so.”

– *Moreland School District*

“I do my best to develop engaging and rigorous lessons for my students. I often weave in humor and movement to cover standards and captivate my young students. With a background in child development, I am confident in creating a caring classroom environment using consistent structure and routine while making learning fun and age appropriate.”

– *Caroline Sienknecht*



DEBRA A. CHAPPELL

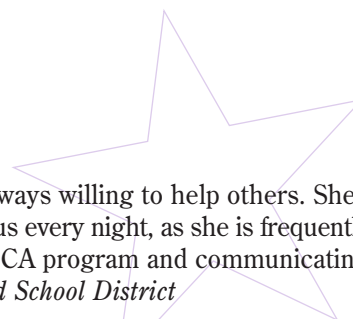
Morgan Hill Unified School District
Barrett Elementary
Fifth Grade

Years in profession: 18

Years with district: 17

“Debra is a collaborator and always willing to help others. She is known to be the last one to leave campus every night, as she is frequently tutoring students in the afterschool YMCA program and communicating with parents.” – *Morgan Hill Unified School District*

“Teaching, for me, does not stop when the bell rings or when you graduate out of my class. I try to teach each student and their families when they need me and as long as they need me. I try hard to teach the whole person. I love to teach them. I love watching them grow and learn; I just love them. They are my students and my salvation.” – *Debra A. Chappell*



Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2018



YEN SALDAÑA

Mount Pleasant School District
August Boeger Middle School
Eighth Grade History and Leadership
Years in profession: 4
Years with district: 4

“Mrs. Saldaña’s dedication and commitment of the school is shown through her actions and values. She demonstrates strategic thinking, organizational skills, and follow through. The students admire and respect her as their teacher, and know that Mrs. Saldaña is always there whenever they need her.” – *Mount Pleasant School District*

“Children should always be welcomed, no matter where they come from. The classroom should always be their safe haven.” – *Yen Saldaña*

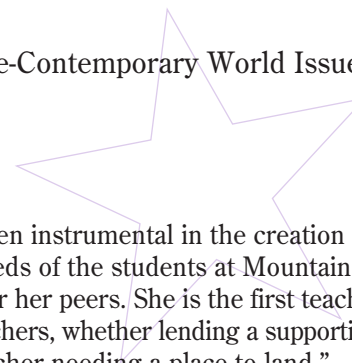


SARAH PEPPER BLOCK

Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District
Mountain View High School
Ninth to 12th Grade Social Science-Contemporary World Issues,
Economics, and Civics (ELD)
Years in profession: 30
Years with district: 27

“Throughout her career, Sarah has been instrumental in the creation of Social Science courses to meet the needs of the students at Mountain View and has served as a role model for her peers. She is the first teacher to lend a helping hand to her fellow teachers, whether lending a supportive ear or sharing her classroom for a teacher needing a place to land.” – *Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District*

“I love engaging students in our past and current issues, teaching them to think critically and guiding them to become thoughtful members of society. It has been my pleasure to empower underrepresented students in the AVID program and work with our newcomers and English language learners. Working with a caring staff and being a mentor to new teachers have made my time at MVHS even more rewarding.” – *Sarah Pepper Block*



Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2018



KATHY PATTERSON

Mountain View Whisman School District
Benjamin Bubb Elementary School
First Grade

Years in profession: 28
Years with district: 17

“Kathy is a leader and shows her relentless dedication to the profession in so many ways. She is a ‘doer’ and regularly takes the initiative when a need arises. She also regularly volunteers to share her time and expertise during IEPs for students outside of her classroom. Kathy embodies the profession, and she is an ultimate teacher.”

– *Mountain View Whisman School District*

“As an educator, it’s my role to find ways to engage and motivate students to work through challenging problems and try things outside their comfort zone. Experiences, where we turn classic literature into short plays, fosters working as a team and promotes taking risks by creatively expressing the characters in stories. Children witness how theatre can excite an audience and are inspired to pen their own creative writing stories.”

– *Kathy Patterson*



SANDRA LINEROS

Oak Grove School District
Edenvale Elementary
Second Grade Bilingual Spanish/English

Years in profession: 25
Years with district: 13

“Sandra Lineros is an exceptional teacher most worthy of this prestigious recognition. She brings rigor, relevance, and engaging instruction to her students in Spanish, and in English as well. Sandra recently celebrated with 40 former Edenvale Students accepted to college at the 30th Annual Edenvale Adopt a College Scholarship Night. She was there to greet, congratulate and award many of her former second grade students in whose minds she had planted the dream of achieving academic success.”

– *Oak Grove School District*

“With the belief that English Language Learners can be biliterate and learn with joy, I open my classroom to frequent demonstration visits. Recently, my class was videotaped by the SEAL program in conjunction with nationwide bilingual authors. The video is shown at bilingual conferences for instructional purposes.” – *Sandra Lineros*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2018



MISSIE CLEMONS

San José Unified School District
Willow Glen High School
Ninth to 12th Grade Resource Specialist
Years in profession: 23
Years with district: 6

“Missie Clemons is one of those wonderful teachers who do not think that going beyond the job expectations for students is anything but the norm. She brings a spirit of compassion and high expectations to her work, and she does so with an energy that ensures our students’ lives are a little closer to her idealistic visions as a result. She is a model teacher, and a model human being.” – *San José Unified School District*

“In my classes, I concentrate on two things: helping my students to pass their general education mainstream classes while receiving their accommodations, and helping my students transition from high school into the next step of their life. One of the highlights of my career, so far, is that I just had a student accepted into a four-year university and received academic and athletic scholarships.” – *Missie Clemmons*



JULIE E. HALL

Santa Clara Unified School District
Wilson High School
Ninth to 12th Grade Counselor
Years in profession: 12
Years with district: 12

“In her role as a guidance counselor, she cares deeply about each student, their life, and their education, and is their strongest advocate. She is a model staff member with her dedication, reliability, understanding, and gracious attitude. She does everything with pride in her work and a smile on her face. Santa Clara Unified is so fortunate to have her as one of our counselors.” – *Santa Clara Unified School District*

“I have the privilege of working with amazing students and staff, who help me be the best counselor I can be. My motto is always to put the students’ and the families’ needs first and do “what is in the best interest of the student.” My goal with students is to help them find and develop their own solutions to the challenges they face, to recognize their own potential and worth, and set their compass settings toward the future of their choice. Valuing the individual is key.” – *Julie E. Hall*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2018



JULIE KWOK

Saratoga Union School District
Saratoga Elementary School
Second Grade

Years in profession: 22

Years with district: 17

“Julie provides multiple entry points to learning for all students and engages parents in the process. She incorporates social-emotional learning opportunities into the curriculum, including mindfulness practices and collaborative projects with students with disabilities—tapping community experts. She provides students with opportunities to share projects with parents and community members.” – *Saratoga Union School District*

“In my role as a teacher, I focus on the relationships with my students. I want our class to be a community: a collaborative classroom where we share ideas, communicate, and learn from each other. If my students believe in themselves, they will develop the confidence to build others up, too. That is the best lesson I can teach them. I want my students to own their learning! The beauty of my profession is that I have the honor to help shape their lives” – *Julie Kwok*



ALEX HA

Sunnyvale School District
Lakewood Elementary School
Fifth Grade

Years in profession: 6

Years with district: 6

“This year Alex has led our third teacher team through the Google Certification process, mentored aspiring teachers as a cooperating teacher with Stanford, and attended Professional Learning Community (PLC) lead meetings to learn about and try new ways to facilitate meaningful grade level interactions. Positive, patient, and a warm demander, Mr. Ha meets the students where they are and brings them to levels that exceed all expectations.” – *Sunnyvale School District*

“The philosophy of growth mindset is the center of my teaching approach. We teach our students to understand that mistakes are essential to learning. As a result, the students become more resilient and are able to do things beyond their own expectations.” – *Alex Ha*

Santa Clara County Teachers of the Year 2018



KIMBERLY DINSDALE

Union School District

Guadalupe Elementary School

Fourth and Fifth Grade Combination Class

Years in profession: 12

Years with district: 12

“Kimberly is a passionate, skilled teacher and is a delight to work with at her school. Walk into her classroom, and you are entering into a world of students who are excited about learning because they are constantly being challenged while having FUN! She embodies the thematic spirit, and she takes all projects to a higher level by thinking outside the box about what will fully engage her students.”

– *Union School District*

“In my classroom, I want students to experience a welcoming, nurturing classroom where they feel accepted. I love to create fun, engaging lessons that require the students to be creative and work together. I want students to respect each other, but most importantly, I want students to love coming to school each day as much as I do!” – *Kimberly Dinsdale*

Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Award Winners 2018



SARAH JACOBS

Alum Rock Union School District
Sheppard Middle School
Sixth and Seventh Grade Technology and English
Years in profession: 19
Years with district: 19

“Ms. Jacobs’ tireless efforts to increase the use of technology has made Sheppard a better place to work, learn, and grow for both students and staff. She is an Apple teacher, Nearpod certified, an ambassador for SeeSaw, and a Flipgrid certified educator. Her passion is contagious.”
– Alum Rock Union School District

“Technology has opened up a new style and way of teaching for me: one that empowers students instead of empowering only me, builds global connections and understanding, and builds equity and individual growth. Innovation takes commitment, hard work and sometimes, failure, but leads to the most unimaginable rewards.” – Sarah Jacobs



CHARLOTTE KRUK

Fremont Union High School District
Lynbrook High School
Ninth to 12th Grade Sculpture Arts
Years in profession: 20
Years with district: 20

“Charlotte, like her art, is colorful, imaginative, distinctive and unforgettable. At a school known for its science and math scholars, Kruk mentors students in design-thinking strategies and assists their unique expression. She installs student art at a fall and spring show, which gives community members a glimpse into the minds and hearts of the students and provides an opportunity to display the unique talent and perspectives of the youth in the district.” – Fremont Union High School District

“Two programs that I’ve instituted at the high school which showcase the talent of our young minds are the Annual Fashion Show – pairing students’ wearable sculptures with student models in a semi-professional runway event – and the Clay Mural Project, which invests color and vitality to the entire campus through the sculpting of inspirational imagery directly related subjects taught within each classroom.” – Charlotte Kruk

Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Award Winners 2018



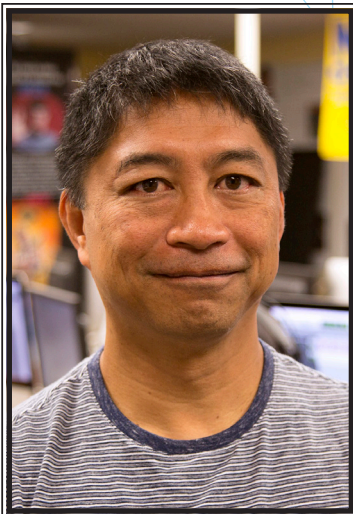
I-HENG MCCOMB

Fremont Union High School District
Fremont High School
Ninth to 12th Grade Mathematics
Years in profession: 25
Years with district: 25

“I-Heng is a force in moving our school and district’s math curriculum forward. Her work here has focused on helping to better support some of our neediest math students. At FHS, she taught Algebra 1, as well as leading the efforts of the Algebra Initiative across the district. I-Heng has been an amazing member of the FHS and FUHSD programs.”

– *Fremont Union High School District*

“I have never seriously considered any other career, and after a quarter century, I still look forward to school every day. My students energize me and challenge me and never cease to surprise me. My colleagues support me and push me to do better for my students. And my subject matter – math – offers endless possibilities for engaging my students (and me!)” – *I-Heng McComb*



LEO FLORENDO

Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District
Freestyle Academy
11th and 12th Grade Digital Media 1 & 2
Years in profession: 25
Years with district: 21

“Leo helped to establish, develop and grow the unique integrated and technology-leveraged project-based curriculum at Freestyle that challenges students to combine their creativity with modern technology to produce sophisticated digital media productions. Leo is very deserving of this award.” – *Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District*

“My overarching goal for my students in Digital Media is to provide the skills to creatively express themselves in various mediums leveraging the use of modern technology so that when they leave high school, they can choose from many possible creative production doors in life to pursue. At a young age, I feel it’s just as important to discover what is NOT your passion as it is to discover what IS. My classes guide students through their discovery.” – *Leo Florendo*



JUDY ZACCHEO

Oak Grove School District

Leonard Herman Intermediate School

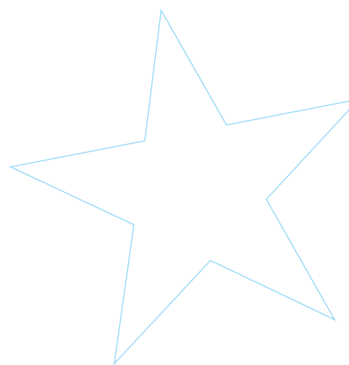
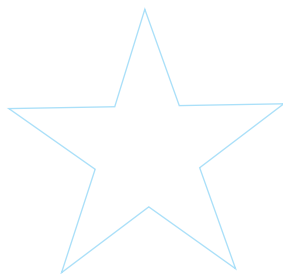
Fifth to Sixth Grade Math, Language Arts, and Computer Science

Years in profession: 18

Years with district: 10

“Judy is an outstanding champion for students and their STEM education with a specific focus on project-based learning and real-world application. She brought the fifth and sixth grade Math and Coding Elective classes into the 21st century by integrating technology and hands-on activities to make her subjects come alive. She is on the cutting edge of what is new in STEM education often applying for grants, attending training and summer institutes.” – *Oak Grove School District*

“I’m proud of the various ways I have been able to engage ALL students in my class! #Engagement! From physical setup including flexible seating and workspaces to Breakout EDU’s, Math Estimation Challenges, Design Thinking, and Weekly Reflection on learning to use the ‘Sown to Grow’ platform. I work extremely hard to hook my students and make their learning experience fun and engaging.” – *Judy Zaccheo*



Welcome from the Santa Clara County Board of Education



At this evening's event, we are honoring 31 "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 2018 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 so much in Santa Clara County, and 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.

Almost five 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 the community's 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 their chosen 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 "Rosemary Kamei". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rosemary Kamei
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 an education that is inclusive and recognizes the rich diversity of our community. Our award winning teachers exemplify our values of students first, innovation, collaboration, and service.

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. It is our own local version of the “Academy Awards” for Teachers.

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. Six 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 students, 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. The excellence they bring to their classrooms affects not just their students, but 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 our children 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!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Ann Dewan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Mary Ann Dewan
County Superintendent of Schools

A message from the Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union



Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union is proud to once again help sponsor the Teacher Recognition Celebration as we offer our sincere congratulations to the 2018 Teachers of the Year! Our commitment to education is a top priority, and we have always sought ways to increase our support of both teachers and students within the communities 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 successful individuals have often attributed their accomplishments to a teacher who inspired them to reach for the stars and achieve their dreams. Their influence on a young child is indelible.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RLytle'.

Rebecca Reynolds Lytle
CEO

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*

Santa Clara County Teacher Recognition Celebration 2018

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

Platinum Sponsors (\$10,000 and above)

Bay Area News Group
Texas Instruments

Gold Sponsor (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union

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

Santa Clara County School Boards Association
Sixth District PTA



The Santa Clara County Office of Education thanks all of the organizations and individuals who have generously donated their time and resources to tonight's event. We wish to express our gratitude to the community which supports Santa Clara County schools. Thank you for your support of public education.

Event Production:
Allison Book-Arango
Mariaisabel Balandra
Priscila Caballero
Summer Reeves
Cynthia Romero
Giulia Seminatore
Tricia Zamora

Event Photography: Ernie Pacleb
Graphic Design: Mike Bromberg

Video: Tim Walter
Lindsey Wong

Invitation and program printing:
Lee Blevins, Print Services

Peter Daniels
Chief Public Affairs Officer





The Significance of the Teacher Recognition Celebration

The Santa Clara County Teacher Recognition Celebration has endured for 49 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 nearly five 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-one teachers were selected in 2018 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 five teachers in the subjects of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics from sixth to 12th grade 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



Head Start



Alternative Education



Special Education



Environmental Education



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.

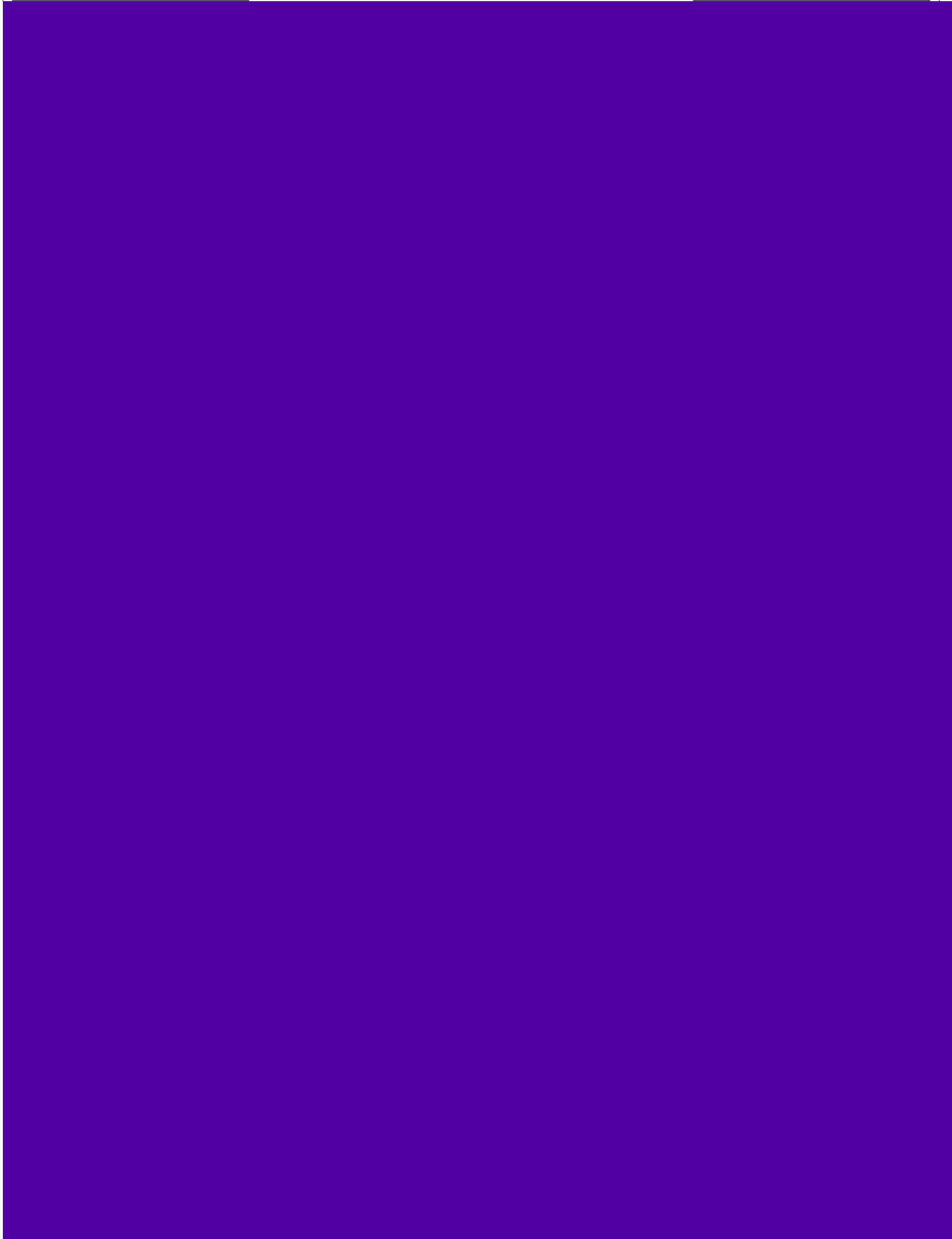
The SCCOE provides instructional, administrative, human resources, business, and technical support services to the county's 31 school districts. By centralizing services such as payroll, employee technology support, professional development, and fingerprinting, the SCCOE helps districts to achieve greater 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 access to inclusive, equitable, high-quality education.
- Provide quality support to districts, schools, students, and communities.
- Be a premier service organization.







COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Joseph Di Salvo • Darcie Green
Rosemary Kamei • Kathleen M. King • Grace H. Mah
Claudia Rossi • Anna Song

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Mary Ann Dewan



1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131-2304
www.sccoe.org/trc

9/18: 550

