Overview & Purpose

Every fall, the Teacher Recognition Celebration honors the county's finest teachers, each selected by their respective school districts. The SCCOE celebrations are made possible with the generous support of community partners.

Research & Planning

A Santa Clara County tradition for over 50 years, the Teacher Recognition Celebration is the oldest and largest celebration of teachers in California and the most prestigious local award given to classroom teachers.

Teacher Recognition is celebrated with these objectives in mind:

- to increase public awareness of the efforts and contributions of teachers and their role in helping our youth to succeed in the world
- to show appreciation for their many fine educational achievements
- to acknowledge the many years of training that teachers undertake
- to prepare for and stay current in their profession; and
- to strengthen ties between students and teachers and bring about a greater understanding between generations

Partnerships are also developed with community partners to honor special recognition categories. Working with the Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union, educators are recognized and honored in the categories of civic engagement and the arts.

In search of a new partner for the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) awards, we made a connection with The Tech Interactive (a science and technology center in San Jose that offers hands-on activities, labs,
design challenges and other STEAM education resources. The Tech Interactive embraced the new partnership and sponsored the newly branded Innovation Awards also known as “The Innies”.

Due to the global health pandemic, the 2020 Teacher Recognition was canceled and the 2021 celebration was greatly modified and scaled down to adhere to the then present health guidelines within Santa Clara County. Having endured two years of lackluster fanfare, the County Superintendent of Schools felt strongly about making the 2022 event a true celebration.

The theme of Celebrating the Stars of Education was selected and the planning of a “Hollywood gala/academy awards/red carpet” type event began. A historic community theatre was selected as the venue and a budget of $42,000 was established.

For planning/tracking purposes, the team uses the following document:

Click on photo for access to the document

**Implementation**

Please the planning document for complete tasks. Below are collateral samples.

Teacher Recognition Submission Form
Charter School Teacher Recognition Form
STEM Award Form
Arts Leadership Award Form
Civic Leadership Award Form
Budget
Save the Date
County Superintendent Congratulations Letter
Arts Award Congratulations Letter
Civics Award Congratulations Letter
STEM Awards Congratulations Letter
Teacher FAQs
Event Script
Video Storyboard
Board Transmittal
Board Recognition
Crystal Award Proof
Day of Event
Invitation
Program
Signage
TRC Photography List
Sponsors/Donations
TRC Webpage
Social Media Posts
Teacher of the Year News Release
TRC Photos
TRC Videos
Video of Complete Event
Co-hosts Nicole Taylor and Dr. Dewan, County Superintendent of Schools, with California Teacher of the Year, Lauren Camarillo

Evaluation

Team Debrief

Even with COVID restrictions, the 2022 Teacher Recognition Ceremony had the highest attendance since the 2010s. The anecdotal data was extremely positive:

*This was the best TRC event we have ever done.* - Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools
What an amazing event and tribute to the educators in our county. - Santa Clara Board of Education Trustee

It felt like we were in old Hollywood. Or at the Oscars. It was seamless and classy. - Santa Clara Unified Superintendent

The YouTube link has 100+ views.