



Salute to Teachers



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For Immediate Release

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NEWS RELEASE

San Diego County Teachers of the Year to be announced during 33rd annual “Cox Presents: Salute to Teachers” on Aug. 25

44 District Teachers of the Year are nominees for top honors

(SAN DIEGO) Aug. 22, 2023 – Forty-four local teachers recognized by their districts as Teachers of the Year are now nominees for San Diego County Teacher of the Year. **Five will be named the 2023-24 San Diego County Teachers of the Year at a special reception on Friday, Aug. 25** as part of the 33rd annual “Cox Presents: Salute to Teachers,” brought to you by San Diego County Credit Union.

In partnership with the San Diego County Office of Education, Cox Communications will produce multiple 30-minute “Cox Presents: Salute to Teachers” television specials to highlight our local teachers. The first special, which premiered in June with replays through August, gave viewers the chance to visit with the reigning County Teachers of the Year and hear from their colleagues and students about their impact inside and outside the classroom. Former County Teacher of the Year Xye Sanders hosted this first special and will serve as co-host alongside Paola Hernández-Jiao, community relations manager at *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, at the Aug. 25 reception to announce the new teachers of the year. In October, a 30-minute special will spotlight the new County Teachers of the Year and share highlights from the reception. Both will air on YurView Network (Cox Channel 4). For air times and to learn more, visit www.SalutetoTeachersSD.com.

Presented by San Diego County Credit Union, the “Cox Presents: Salute to Teachers” event and television specials recognize the county’s 24,000-plus public school teachers. The Aug. 25 reception will feature a performance by the dance team from Scripps Ranch High School (San Diego Unified School District) led by County Teacher of the Year nominee Trishaa Camp. Main Attraction, Chula Vista High School’s competitive show choir, under the direction of Michael Sakell, will also perform. The event will culminate with the announcement of the five new County Teachers of the Year, who will represent the region while vying for California Teacher of the Year honors.

For 33 years, Cox Communications, in partnership with the San Diego County Office of Education, has produced and televised “Cox Presents: Salute to Teachers” to honor San Diego County’s public school teachers for their commitment to their students and the teaching profession. In addition to San Diego County Credit Union, sponsors include Murray Lampert, Procopio, Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, Oggi’s, Meritage Wine Market, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, The Mightier 1090, and KPBS.

The 44 nominees for Teacher of the Year (listed below and [online](#)) were selected by their respective school districts. The five county teachers of the year will be selected based on student achievement, professional development and school community involvement, teaching philosophy, knowledge of educational issues and trends, promotion and development of the teaching profession, and ability to serve as ambassadors of education.

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2023-24 San Diego County Teacher of the Year Nominees

School District	First Name	Last Name	School Name
Alpine Union School District	Diana	Tompkins	Joan MacQueen Middle School
Bonsall Unified School District	Lauren	Kennington	Bonsall Elementary
Cajon Valley Union School District	Amanda	Ford	Flying Hills School of the Arts
Carlsbad Unified School District	Melanie	Lupica	Magnolia Elementary
Chula Vista Elementary School District	Anika	Ito	Fred H. Rohr Elementary
Chula Vista Elementary School District	Erin	Marmion	Wolf Canyon Elementary
Chula Vista Elementary School District	Melissa	Showman	Myrtle S. Finney Elementary
Del Mar Union School District	Cinzia	Fisher	Ocean Air School
Encinitas Union School District	Kirsten	Goyette	Flora Vista Elementary
Escondido Union High School District	Courtney	Coffin	Orange Glen High School
Escondido Union School District	Carrie	McGibney	Rincon Middle School
Escondido Union School District	Wendy	Threatt	Felicita Elementary
Fallbrook Union Elementary School District	Emily	Avila	Maie Ellis Elementary
Grossmont Union High School District	David	Crabtree	Monte Vista High School
Grossmont Union High School District	Thea	Bachmann	Santana High School
La Mesa-Spring Valley School District	James	Gonzales	La Mesa Arts Academy
Lakeside Union School District	John	Dungan	Lakeside Middle School
Lemon Grove School District	Sunthai	Johnson	San Altos Elementary
Mountain Empire Unified School District	Matthew	Heinemann	Pine Valley Middle School
National School District	Ashley	Trzcinski	Las Palmas Elementary
Oceanside Unified School District	Deborah	Dickson	North Terrace Elementary
Oceanside Unified School District	Felicia	Ayala	Foussat Elementary
Poway Unified School District	Carrie	Jennings	Monterey Ridge Elementary
Poway Unified School District	Christina	Bass	Painted Rock Elementary
Poway Unified School District	Sanford	Carvajal	Mt. Carmel High School
Ramona Unified School District	Katie	Skahan	James Dukes Elementary
San Diego County Office of Education	Sarah	Knighon/Wisor	HOPE Infant Family Support

			Program
San Diego Unified School District	Jillian	Salazar	Tierrasanta Elementary
San Diego Unified School District	Julia	Rick	Thurgood Marshall Middle School
San Diego Unified School District	Laurisa	Murray	Mira Mesa High School
San Diego Unified School District	Leanne	Samek	Audubon UTK-8 School
San Diego Unified School District	Lee	Yepiz	De Portola Middle School
San Diego Unified School District	Trishaa	Camp	Scripps Ranch High School
San Marcos Unified School District	Danielle	Dorsey	San Marcos Middle School
San Pasqual Union School District	Heather	Johnson	San Pasqual Union School
Santee School District	Michelle	Corderman	Rio Seco School
South Bay Union School District	Natalie	Dow	SBUSD Virtual Academy
Sweetwater Union High School District	Devon	Marano	Montgomery High School
Sweetwater Union High School District	Julie	Carson	Chula Vista High School
Sweetwater Union High School District	Kristy	Greenway- August	Eastlake High School
Sweetwater Union High School District	Leslie	Bustos	National City Middle School
Sweetwater Union High School District	Melanie	Villanueva	Sweetwater Union High School District (previously taught at Hilltop Middle School)
Sweetwater Union High School District	Melissa	Hernandez	San Ysidro High School
Valley Center- Pauma Unified School District	Kimberly	Williams	Valley Center High School/ Valley Center Elementary