



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 named during 31st annual “Cox Presents: Salute to Teachers” on Sept. 10

33 District Teachers of the Year are nominees for top honors

(SAN DIEGO) Aug. 26, 2021 – Thirty-three 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 2021-22 San Diego County Teachers of the Year at a special reception on Friday, Sept. 10 as part of the 31st annual “Cox Presents: Salute to Teachers.” National television personality and San Diego Magazine food writer Troy Johnson, a native San Diegan who attended both Mt. Carmel and Poway high schools, will serve as host for the evening.

In partnership with the San Diego County Office of Education, Cox Communications will produce a one-hour “Cox Presents: Salute to Teachers” television special to recognize local teachers, spotlight the teachers of the year, and share highlights from the reception. The show will air at 9 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 17 on YurView Network (Cox Channel 4 and 1004 in high definition). Visit www.SalutetoTeachersSD.com.

Presented by San Diego County Credit Union, “Cox Presents: Salute to Teachers” recognizes the county’s 26,000 public school teachers and will feature musical and dance performances by local students leading up to the announcement of the five County Teachers of the Year, who will represent the region while vying for California Teacher of the Year honors.

For 31 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 SDCCU, sponsors include Procopio, KPBS, iHeart Radio, The Mightier 1090, and The San Diego Union-Tribune.

The 33 nominees for Teacher of the Year (nominee listing below) were selected by their respective school districts. The five county teachers of the year will be selected based on student achievement, professional development and community involvement, teaching philosophy and personal style, knowledge of educational issues and trends, promotion and development of the teaching profession, accountability, and ability to serve as ambassadors of education.

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2021-22 San Diego County Teacher of the Year Nominees

SCHOOL DISTRICT	TEACHER	SCHOOL
Bonsall Unified School District	Debbie Hoffman	Bonsall Elementary
Cajon Valley Union School District	Lindsey Schantz	Chase Avenue Elementary
Coronado Unified School District	Kathleen Cotten	Coronado Middle
Encinitas Union School District	Arlene Oyagi	La Costa Heights Elementary
Escondido Union High School District	Laura Reyes	Central Elementary
Escondido Union School District	Mitchell de Neve	Bear Valley Middle
Fallbrook Union Elementary School District	Tic Srinalack	Potter Junior High
Grossmont Union High School District	Ana Nosal	Mount Miguel High
Grossmont Union High School District	Tiffany Jokerst	West Hills High
La Mesa-Spring Valley School District	Tony Sandoval	Parkway Middle
Lemon Grove School District	Jacquelyn Jourdane	San Altos Elementary
Mountain Empire Unified School District	Andrea Denlinger	Campo Elementary
National School District	Amy Wert	Ira Harbison Elementary
Oceanside Unified School District	Alyssa Schrom	Del Rio Elementary
Oceanside Unified School District	Xye Sanders	César Chávez Middle
Poway Unified School District	Tasha Giffin	Del Norte High
Poway Unified School District	Carlos La Grange	Westview High
Poway Unified School District	Julie Spychalski	Twin Peaks Middle
Ramona Unified School District	HeatherMcClain	James Dukes Elementary
San Diego County Office of Education	Keri Gravette	Davila Day School
San Diego Unified School District	Francia Pinillos	T.R.A.C.E. Alternative School
San Diego Unified School District	Renee Thomas	Marston Middle
San Diego Unified School District	Sharon Apple	Hoover High
San Diego Unified School District	Thomas Courtney	Chollas-Mead Elementary
San Diego Unified School District	Lupe Celedon	Creative Performing Media Arts (CPMA) Middle
San Pasqual Union School District	Jolene Mallory	San Pasqual Union Elementary
San Ysidro School District	Jaime Abarca	Vista Del Mar Middle
Santee School District	Teresa Elliott	Carlton Hills School
Solana Beach School District	Dawn Butler	Solana Ranch Elementary
Sweetwater Union High School District	Sarah Kesty	Castle Park Middle
Sweetwater Union High School District	Marina Dillingham	Bonita Vista High
Sweetwater Union High School District	Ivy Medrano	East Hills Academy
Sweetwater Union High School District	Gregory Simpson	Chula Vista High