

Superintendent's Employee Appreciation Message

May is a month in which we typically appreciate our education employees, including principals, classified employees, teachers, nurses, and school nutrition staff. This year, in particular, I want to celebrate publicly the work of AUSD employees, because this year, in particular, our staff deserves an extra-large thank you and acknowledgement.

Since we suspended in-class instruction in mid-March, our employees have had to adjust to the most intense and uncertain time any of us have experienced in public education. The pandemic's impact on how we deliver not only instruction but food, counseling, technology support, enrollment help and myriad other services is nearly incalculable. But every day I see employees not only rising to these challenges but also developing ways to overcome them. Their commitment, their tenacity, and their creativity are genuinely inspiring and humbling.

I know our employees' work on behalf of AUSD students, staff, and families is often being done against a backdrop of their own anxiety and their own family needs. I can't tell you much I appreciate that. All of our AUSD staff are navigating uncharted territory with this pandemic, and all of them are showing up to help others navigate this territory, too – whether it's by offering distance learning opportunities, serving food, forging connections, providing counseling, developing curriculum, masterminding technological fixes, or leading school communities. When we get through this, the ability to adapt and persevere is what will make AUSD a stronger and even more impactful organization for the families and communities we serve and support.

I am grateful to our employees for being there for our kids and our community.

Respectfully,

Pasquale Scuderi