

Teacher Audrey Hyman Receives LGBT Award from CTA

Audrey Hyman, a teacher at Edison Elementary School and former president of the Alameda Education Association, has won the prestigious David Sanchez GLBT Leadership Award from the California Teachers Association.

The award honors those who have supported, promoted, recognized, and educated the education community regarding gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) issues. It is named after CTA President David A. Sanchez, who was both the first Hispanic CTA President and the first openly gay CTA President.

Ms. Hyman was a member of AUSD's LGBTQ Round Table from 2012 to 2017. During her time as a member, she supported efforts to strengthen Gay Straight Alliances at the secondary schools, helped clarify how proposed initiatives might affect teachers, and worked to support the district's LGBTQ employees. She was also instrumental to the "Everyone Belongs Here" campaign launched by the round table in 2015. That poster has become an intrinsic part of the inclusive culture of AUSD and the broader Alameda community.

"I count Audrey as both a friend and colleague and am so happy she was recognized for her work," says Gene Kahane, an English teacher at Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School and a current co-chair of the LGBTQ Round Table. "Her contributions to the round table have been significant and deserve recognition and celebration. She's also been a special mentor - showing me how to be a queer ally and a role model to my fellow teachers. Audrey, you rock!"

Adds Marcelle Trzcinski, a teacher at Bay Farm School who also co-chairs the round table, "The LGBTQ Roundtable wouldn't be where it is today without the foundation that Audrey was critical in laying. We are actively inspired by her commitment to the community and her desire and drive to make a difference in the district. Congratulations, Audrey – we couldn't think of anyone more deserving of this award."

Currently, Ms. Hyman is president of the City of Alameda's Social Service and Human Relations Board.

"I am grateful to have known Audrey as a colleague, and I want to thank her for her consistent record of speaking up for the rights of all people," says Superintendent Sean McPhetridge. "As we put a close to 2017, I thank Audrey for her leadership and for her example of compassionate service to others."

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