

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Encinal's Kevin Gorham Wins County Teacher of the Year Award

Alameda – October 10, 2017 – Kevin Gorham, a veteran teacher in the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD), was selected last night to represent Alameda County in the 2017-18 California State Teacher of the Year competition.

Gorham, who teaches AP government and economics and leads the student-run radio station at Encinal Junior & Senior High School, was chosen as AUSD's 2017 Teacher of the Year last May.

"Without teachers taking time out of their day to make sure I was on track, I don't know where I would be today," Gorham said after receiving the award. "If I can make a difference like those teachers did for me, then I'm going to live a great life."

Oakland Unified School District's Stephanie Taymuree was also selected to represent the county. Taymuree works with students with special needs in the Technology & Augmentative Communication for Learning Enhancement (TACLE) program at Oakland's Redwood Heights Elementary School.

"Well-deserved spotlight"

The two teachers were selected from the 18 Alameda County school district Teachers of the Year, each of whom submitted extensive applications for panel review. The winners were announced at an event at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts that was attended by 300 people.

"Each year, we are honored to host this event in celebration of the district winning teachers," said L. Karen Monroe, Alameda County Superintendent of Schools. "It is not only a time to acknowledge the work of these amazing individuals, but to also shine a well-deserved spotlight on our county's education community. These winning teachers are representatives of all the extraordinary educators serving and supporting Alameda County youth."

Gorham started his career as a radio broadcaster in San Francisco and transitioned to teaching in 1992. He spent his early years as a teacher at a middle school in East Oakland. "Working with many marginalized students and families there," he says, "I learned to adapt my approaches to situations based on the realities of their lives."

He began working with AUSD in 1999, when he was hired as an 6th and 8th grade core teacher at Lincoln Middle School. In 2006, he took a job as Men's Varsity Basketball Coach and History Teacher at Encinal High School. Since then, he has worked as a teacher, assistant principal, athletic director, and basketball coach at the school. He also helped create the Junior Jets middle school program on the campus, so that the entire school now serves grades 6-12.

"Kevin's emphasis on caring for and connecting with students is a blessing in the classroom, and his ability to engage and energize students in a variety of contexts benefits the entire school community," says Superintendent Sean McPhetridge. "He is a tremendous role model in our community. I am deeply grateful for his service."

"A Dream Come True"

Currently Mr. Gorham teaches AP Government, Economics, and Broadcast Journalism Radio I & II at what is now called Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School, and he also serves as the Athletic Director there. Over the last several years, he also led an effort to secure funding and approval for building a state-of-the-art radio studio at the school as part of a Career Technical Education (CTE) pathway in media. Since March, students have been broadcasting "live" from KJTZ (96.1 FM) every morning; the studios are available for Alameda Community Radio and Poor Magazine at other times.

"What pleases me the most is seeing kids of all types come together for the same goal, producing a great, quality show for the city of Alameda," Gorham said after being selected as AUSD's Teacher of the Year last May. "I've seen so many students break out of their shells and lose their shyness in this arena. Their enthusiasm is overwhelming. To hear these young broadcasters on the air is a dream come true. I couldn't be prouder of them."

Adds Board President Gary Lym, "I am thrilled that Kevin won this award. As a teacher and an athletic director, he is able to connect with students in AP and CTE programs alike, as well as athletes and colleagues. We are very fortunate to have a teacher of this caliber in our district."

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Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) serves 9500 students in Alameda, California, an island community in the San Francisco Bay Area. For more information, please visit the [AUSD website](#), follow [@AUSDNews](#) on Twitter, or subscribe to our [email communications](#). Questions? Contact Susan Davis, Senior Manager, Community Affairs, at sdavis@alameda.k12.ca.us.