



OUSD Employee Recognition Ceremony

An evening dedicated to
celebrating outstanding staff

May 15, 2024

Scottish Rite Center, Oakland, CA

Small Plates Reception: 4:30 pm

Awards Ceremony: 5:30 pm

HOSTED BY THE TALENT DIVISION

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HONORING OUR OWN 2024

OUSD Employee Recognition Ceremony

SMALL PLATES RECEPTION: 4:30 pm



ENTERTAINMENT

Elmhurst United Middle School Cheer Team and the Skyline High School Jazz Band

AWARDS CEREMONY: 5:30 pm

WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Tara Gard, Chief Talent Officer



OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent of Schools

Sam Davis, Board President



AWARD PRESENTERS

Sam Davis

Board President District 1

Mike Hutchinson

Board Vice President - District 4

Jennifer Brouhard

Board Director District 2

VanCedric Williams

Board Director District 3

Jorge Lerma

Board Director District 5

Valarie Bachelor

Board Director District 6

Dr. Clifford Thompson

Vice President - District 7

Anevay Cruz

Student Director, Board of Education

Vida Mendoza

Student Director, Board of Education



Greetings and Congratulations to Our Award Winners!

Thank you for joining us as we celebrate the outstanding work done by our colleagues. Honoring Our Own is always one of my favorite events because we get to focus entirely on our most important resource, our people. Throughout the past year, the staff members we are celebrating have shown exemplary dedication to ensuring that students across Oakland Unified School District receive an excellent education and that their fellow employees have all that they need to thrive in their roles. Each award recipient you will meet tonight represents all of our staff in a remarkable way. Their work is deeply rooted in our shared values and the belief that every student in Oakland deserves to be well-prepared for college, career and community success.

As a former teacher and school leader myself, I know how critical it is to be celebrated and to more importantly recognize the invaluable contributions of OUSD staff. Events like this evening allow us to come together to honor our own and help advance our vision and mission by ensuring educators across our District—from cafeterias, classrooms, and central offices--feel seen, heard, and valued.

This is how we build and sustain a joyful and thriving workforce that places students first, always, and creates the conditions to recruit and retain innovative and dedicated educators like the ones being honored tonight.

I want to say thank you to all of our employees for the dedication and passion they bring to work every day across the District. The seen and unseen stories of love and care are what continue to keep our community thriving.

This is the [enter year] Annual Honoring Our Own, and each year I am humbled by the remarkable stories of our staff. I am excited to learn more about our honorees who were all chosen by their peers, the people who see their value every day. That is perhaps the best thing about these awards: they come from the people who know the honorees' dedication and hard work as well as anyone. It is high praise to be honored by one's colleagues. I applaud all of you for being recognized.

Together, let's congratulate our honorees and thank them for everything they do in support of the young people of Oakland.

Respectfully,

Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent
Oakland Unified School District

2024 AWARDEES



EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

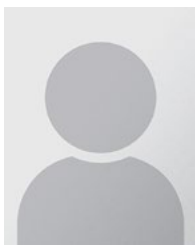
This award is reserved for OUSD students who are members of Student Leadership in their school and/or at the district level. Student Leadership awardees lead other students toward success, a sense of community, belonging, and strong school culture and take on leadership roles in their classrooms and school environments.



Fabiola Ayala Chavez

Student, 12th Grade, Fremont High School

"Fabiola has been incredible in advocating for her community and fellow students. When she was on the All-City Council (ACC) Governing Board, she worked with the Student Advisory Committee at The Center and gave meaningful feedback on how food resources could better serve students and families across Oakland, most specifically in East Oakland. Fabiola wholeheartedly supports her school culture and climate. Through her work on the All City Council Governing Board and Fremont's Leadership Class and Office, Fabiola has worked with school and District leaders to address issues she and her peers experienced. Through her advocacy and willingness to work with a diverse group of people, I have seen Fabiola grow tremendously within her leadership capacity."



Daijon Corley

Student, 9th Grade, Class President, Oakland High School

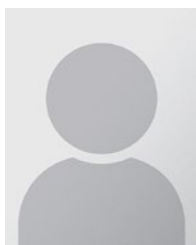
"In situations where it comes in maintaining student bonds and community, he has brought multiple classes together through his amazing attitude and effort. He has an outstanding presence with fellow peers (even if they are grades above him). This one time, there was a massive fight involving five students in a FFA where he jumped in bravely and separated them one by one as other students tried to instigate the situation. Daijon, with his leader voice and absolute will managed to break it apart and have them all come together and realize they are friends and not enemies. I know this sounds straight out of a movie, but he truly is an amazing leader in Oakland High School despite being in 9th grade. He gives people courage and hope."



Anevey Cruz

Student Director, Board of Education

"Throughout her high school experience, Anevey has continuously worked to ensure student voice is at the center of what OUSD does. Through her advocacy and leadership, Anevey has been an integral part of Oakland High School's community as well as the district-wide efforts she's led as part of All-City Council (ACC), and now as a Student Board Director. As Anevey has stepped within her leadership capacity, she has taught other students how to representatively lead within their school communities and supported students in seeing how they can create a better educational experience for themselves. Serving on ACC has been a way for her to elicit feedback from students who don't feel as confident using their voices and then to be their formidable advocate."



Nadia "Sidney" Laguna Ornelas

Student, 12th Grade, MetWest High School

"Sidney has shown up so much for her senior class when it comes to fundraisers, being a part of student council, school-wide and student-led events. She encourages her fellow peers to be involved and works tirelessly to help her senior class have the best final year they can have and encouraged all to focus on academic excellence. She serves as Student Council treasurer and has also taken responsibility as Media Director. She is consistently leading student-led fundraisers and is the spokesperson of her class when it comes to student issues that need to be addressed. She is 'go to' student and tries to be involved with every senior committee ensuring her voice, as well as the voices of her peers, is heard."



Vida Mendoza

Student Director, Board of Education

"At her core, Vida is a builder. She listens, gathers information, learns, and then acts. Given her extensive experience in leadership positions both at Life Academy and on All-City Council, Vida understands the importance of collaboration and clear communication; then she has a detailed orientation to the work that serves to ensure follow through. Vida has been a student leader over the last six years and continues to create a legacy for student leaders to re-envision what student voice and engagement looks like within OUSD. In Life Academy since 6th grade and having served four years on All-City Council, including her service as LCAP director gave her insight into school budgets which then gave her the needed confidence to serve as Student Director."



Airieanna Murrell

Student, 11th Grade, Oakland High School

"Our school wouldn't be the same without Airieanna's hard work and leadership. She listens fully to peers and makes sure our needs and demands are met. She draws attention to issues and writes about them in the school newspaper, making students' voices heard. She also has professional rapport with the adults at the school. She is starting her own on-campus nonprofit called Student Culture and Climate Team, working this year on Mental Health Supports. Airieanna is a very strong leader and advocate. When you feel like you can't talk, she will be your voice. She does what many people are afraid to do; speak up and advocate for what should be done to resolve the wrong."



i am OUSD EXCELLENCE AWARD

The person receiving this award embodies and exemplifies the core values of the Oakland Unified School District. They reflect the values of Equity, Students' First, Excellence, Cultural Responsiveness, Integrity, and Joy in their commitment to the students, families, educators, and communities in Oakland Unified.



LaTonya Henderson

Instructional Aide, CDC, Lockwood CDC

"Lockwood CDC Instructional Assistant, LaTonya Henderson, affectionately known as "Ms. LaTonya", is quintessentially the kind of employee Honoring Our Own was designed to celebrate. Ms. Latonya brings love, grace and joy into the classroom environment where she has served children and families for 40 years! She is wholeheartedly there for OUSD students because she was one. Born and raised in Oakland, LaTonya went to New Highland Elementary, Elmhurst Middle and is a graduate of Castlemont High School. LaTonya takes the time to build trusting relationships with them, while meeting each where they are developmentally. Well loved by her colleagues, Ms. LaTonya can work with anyone. Her calm demeanor and good humor has earned her a place in the hearts of her school community, and beyond."



CLASSIFIED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

This award category recognizes exemplary classified school employees who symbolize the profession's contributions and commitment to quality education. OUSD's Classified School Employees of the Year are selected through careful consideration based on rigorous standards from the State of California. They take into consideration nominees' work performance, school community involvement, leadership and commitment, and are considered at the county and state levels for further recognition.

HEALTH & STUDENT SERVICES

Titilayo Doyeni

Instructional Support Specialist, Joaquin Miller Elementary

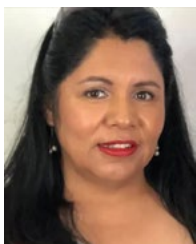


"Ms. Titi is an exceptional Instructional Support Specialist. She takes time to form strong, positive relationships with each student she supports and gets to know their interests and learning needs. She carefully reviews IEP goals and information, confers with classroom teachers and RSPs, and uses this knowledge to inform her consistent and goal-focused daily work with students. Ms. Titi is a warm demander; she cares deeply about each of her students and sees the best in each of them while holding them to high (and realistic) academic and behavioral standards. Ms. Titi is flexible and able to change based on student personality, needs, and best practices."

SECURITY SERVICES

Elisa Escobedo

Noon Supervisor & Early Literacy Tutor, Melrose Leadership Academy



"It's not just one incident that makes Ms. Elisa so special; it's her longevity; it's been her ability to continue to be flexible. She is the definition of a bamboo forest! She is strong and flexible and continues to evolve with the years our school has had to continue to reinvent itself. She is so adaptable; she is queen of the chameleons! They say J Lo continues to reinvent herself (and Cher and Madonna). Ms. Elisa is right up there! She continues to get better, staying an avid learner. She adapts to the ways the school culture is moving. I don't know what we would be without her."



TECHNICAL SERVICES

Rinat Fried

Research Associate, Early Childhood Education, Research, Assessment & Data (RAD)

"Teachers and leaders love Rinat because she is so responsive. If they have questions about the data being presented, see inaccuracies, or need help navigating a platform, she doesn't hesitate to hop on a call and try to understand more. Rinat is constantly getting celebrations from teachers, leaders, and outside community members who see the many ways she supports—such as helping create a system for tutors to take student attendance, creating a mail merge to give every tutor an update about their attendance, or helping to get data over so we can tailor literacy messages we send out to our families."



FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES

Tammie McHenry

Production Tech, Central Kitchen

"You want employees like Tammie, people who will step up and learn something different for the long haul. She's been with the District for over forty years, and she had always been a food service worker. Now in the role of Machine Tech, she takes care of multiple machines and production lines. She's like an engineer of sorts; each one is different, so she is in charge of managing the settings to ensure accuracy, both operationally and troubleshooting. Ms. Tammie will help anybody that needs it; if you call on her, she is there!"



CUSTODIAL & MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Thomas O'Neill

Gardener, Buildings & Grounds Department

"Tom is a valued member of the gardening team with whom he works closely, also respected and admired by all his colleagues in Buildings & Grounds. Despite experiencing a life-threatening accident resulting in severe injuries and months of rehabilitation, Tom's unwavering determination led him back to work, inspiring and uplifting the spirits of the entire Department. Tom's remarkable resilience motivates us all, demonstrating his exceptional character, unwavering dedication to his work and colleagues, and commitment to keeping safe and well-maintained schools for all OUSD students, staff, and community."

SKILLED TRADES



Kipchogi "Kip" Scott

Operations Engineer, KDOL/District Communications

"Kip is from Oakland; he is someone the students can relate to; they see him as a mentor, and they look up to him. His presence leads them to be inspired and curious, and this alone makes a huge difference in their lives. I am consistently impressed with Kip's calm demeanor. Whenever I need help with something technical, albeit a computer that isn't working or a camera that won't read a card, he doesn't hesitate to get to work fixing the problem. I have felt comfortable going only to him for technical support and help."

PARAPROFESSIONAL



Shelline Waldorf

Para Educator, Skyline High

"Ms. Shelline *literally* helped save the Special Class Program during an actual lockdown with shots fired. . . She kept the students calm, had them use their quiet voices, kept everyone reassured and stayed on the earpiece with me so we could all transfer information to the rest of the team and to families waiting to hear word of what was happening. The substitute said she was unbelievable and was so grateful she was there. She was a hero in action that students and families cherished for helping to keep the students safe during a three-hour lockdown. That's an anecdote about Ms. Shelline that says it all."

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



Helena Wu-Quach

Attendance Specialist, Bilingual, Westlake Middle School

"She is so well known and respected particularly around Chinatown and in the Chinese community. Many families—hundreds—have sent their kids to Westlake primarily because of her, while they had other options, particularly because of their trust in her, in her relationships in the community, and in her as an employee from the community in whom they had deep trust. Families of our scholars go to her first if they don't feel comfortable asking others, due to her knowledge of the District and navigating the overall systems, especially our school system and her knowledge of the system (not just at Westlake but in the District)."



TEACHERS OF THE YEAR 2024-2025

OUSD Teachers of the Year are selected through a rigorous process that includes classroom observations, feedback regarding their teaching practice, and self-reflection on their teaching philosophy and pedagogical practice. OUSD Teachers of the Year are considered at the county and state levels for further recognition, and we are proud to celebrate these Teachers for their accomplishments and contributions to Oakland's youth.



Sarah Ben-Israel

Teacher, 6th Grade Science, Edna Brewer Middle School

"Ms. B is often brought up as a teacher who is good at teaching students Science, but also as one students trust and value. Ms. B's compassion, integrity, and unwavering dedication shine through every interaction. She cares deeply for her students, understanding individual needs and challenges. Her integrity is evident in how she holds students to high standards for personal and academic growth. Above all, her dedication is demonstrated through the way she teaches valuable lessons about Science, but more importantly, how to navigate life and the challenges we may face outside of the safe confines of middle school."



Claudia Hung-Haas

Teacher, 3rd Grade, Lincoln Elementary School

"When you walk into her classroom, you immediately want to relax and hunker down with her students. She's achieved that perfect pairing of low stress and high expectations. During direct instruction (something she's an absolute master at) every student is focused. I know it's not effortless, but she makes teaching and learning look effortless. She had each of her students keep a goal-setting binder and encouraged them to drive their own learning. One day, after an SBAC testing session, I picked up a small scrap of paper left behind. It was a note one of her students had written to himself. It read, 'Good job, Leo!'"



Jazmine Njissang

Teacher, 8th Grade Math, West Oakland Middle School

"A cornerstone of Jazmine's teaching is her emphasis on the importance of group work and collaboration. From the first day of school, she asks her students to problem solve with each other multiple times throughout a single class period. Over time, she strategically removes certain scaffolds and help students lean into 'productive struggle' with mathematics. Jazmine has also created innovative projects that make math more relevant, such as introducing the concept of student loans and tuition for college, to understand percentage, functions, and rate of change. Jazmine has figured out how to balance support with high expectations, and students know how to be successful in her class."



CLASSIFIED EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award category recognizes exemplary classified school employees who symbolize the profession's contributions and commitment to quality education. These employees are essential to maintaining strong service to schools while making a huge difference in the lives of the students of OUSD.



Luz Maria Alcaraz Reyes

Early Literacy Tutor, Esperanza

"Ms. Luz is a shining light. I consider her to be a co-teacher in our Transitional Kindergarten class. She pays attention to detail, places students' academic and social-emotional needs first, and is highly responsive. Her warm personality and high expectations have supported students' language and literacy growth in two languages. Luz carefully analyzes data and anecdotal records to plan instruction and intervention in small groups. She adapts to meet the needs of a dual language program and demonstrates a growth mindset as an English language learner. Plus, Luz mentors our bilingual Early Literacy Tutors."



Chandra Kendrix

Administrative Assistant III, Oakland Adult & Career Education

"Chandra is really the "glue" that keeps OACE running smoothly. She manages office routines and works with all staff in expanding our programs. She always thinks of our students first, is such a joyful person to work with, and holds herself to high standards of excellence. Chandra shows prodigious leadership and employs multiple effective clerical and office organization strategies, overseeing the GED and HISET testing that our students must pass to obtain their diplomas. I think all the staff and faculty feel the same about Ms. Kendrix -- she is a jewel in our organization."



Claudia Lara

Clerk, Bilingual, Fremont High

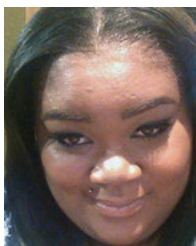
"Claudia is an incredibly positive force at Fremont. Our nickname for her is Sunshine because she shines her positivity on all of us. Claudia develops strong, lasting relationships with families. She engages caringly with parents who are dealing with difficult issues around truancy, behavior, and even legal issues. She tries to give them as much insight as possible and connect them to resources. Claudia is driven to serve the youth of Oakland. I am continuously amazed at her patience, wisdom, and resourcefulness. I believe she is the District's greatest asset; a solid, hardworking, loving educator who sees, recognizes, and celebrates all of our students."



Jenelle McBride

Noon Supervisor, Redwood Heights Elementary

"As Noon Supervisor, Ms. Jenelle goes WAY above her job duties. During her four hours, she deeply impacts climate and culture, creating logistical systems for all outdoor play. She has taken the initiative to create a daily/weekly play schedule including game rules and expectations. She creates the teacher recess schedule, seating map for lunch and assemblies, and regulations for all outdoor activities. Anyone visiting will see her encouraging students while walking the yard. Ms. Jenelle collaborates and richly supports our climate and culture team by buying our RHS Student Jobs programs, that includes junior coaches and equipment stewards."



Tamika Parnell

Food Service Assistant III, Urban Promise Academy

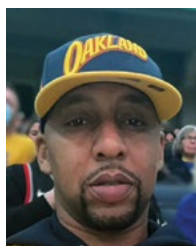
"Ms. Tamika ensures that every student's dietary needs and preferences are accommodated, whether it be allergies, cultural dietary restrictions, or personal preferences. She consistently provides nutritious and appetizing meals while maintaining high standards of hygiene and safety. Ms. Tamika holds transparency and accountability in all food service operations, from organizing all meals to ensuring all bagged lunches for fields are ready for our kiddos. Ms. Tamika infuses joy into the dining experience through friendly interactions and engaging activities fostering a positive and welcoming atmosphere that enhances the overall well-being of students."



Mareme Samb

Para Educator, Piedmont Avenue Elementary

"Ms. Mareme supports students on her case load as well as any other students needing help. She celebrates them at every turn for their small and big accomplishments. She attends PTA and SST meetings and fully engages with our community. She is truly a positive, loving, and joyous person who makes our school a better place. I think every teacher wants Ms. Mareme to work in their room. You will NEVER see Ms. Mareme on her phone, but you WILL see and hear her praising and coaching students through challenges and motivating them to do their best every moment."



Timothy Wilder II

Custodian CDC, Acorn Woodland CDC and Highland CDC

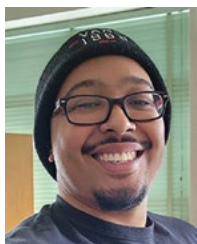
"Mr. Wilder is known for his willingness to go above and beyond, putting students first and lifting staff at every site he has worked, including ensuring that students at Lockwood STEAM have a safe, new, and wonderful play structure which he supported by laying mulch and installing basketball hoops. Moreover, Mr. Wilder attended Oakland public schools and is very proud to continue being part of the community that helped shape his character and strive for greatness. I have seen Mr. Wilder bring joy to the schools that he worked at by interacting with the students by playing sports or just giving them encouraging words."



Huan "Elaine" Wu

Food Service Assistant III, Allendale Elementary

"Ms. Wu is always friendly to students and staff. She is extremely hard-working and conscientious, treats everyone with great respect, and goes out of her way to make sure everything in the cafeteria runs smoothly. We are sometimes short of staff during lunch, and Ms. Wu has taken it upon herself to sing songs and entertain the children until it's time for them to be picked up. The children love her and so does the staff! She has been working at our school site for a long time; her college-aged daughter was even in my kindergarten class!"



Ashton Zacarias

Payroll Analyst, Office of Senior Business Officer

"Ashton is so impressive in the way he holds so much and focuses on responsiveness and excellence in his work. He works in a complex environment where human error is inevitable. Despite this, he holds his role with an unparalleled ethic of integrity and excellence. Ashton is someone I've experienced personally as someone who will pull our team out of crises! There have been times checks would have been delayed and Ashton has made a separate trip to meet the people at the office to ensure they got paid. And once, late at night, he let us interrupt his game and responded to an emergency issue; that's commitment!"



TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Teaching Excellence Awards recognize the combination of a Teacher's skill and passion, dedication, and self-reflection of practice that make for a rich and engaging learning environment for Students.



Jhannet Acosta

Teacher, 1st Grade, Montclair Elementary

"Ms. Acosta is beloved by her students and their families because she is able to create a warm, learning-based environment for her students day in and day out. With quiet professionalism, she helps every student feel seen, assessing what they need to be successful with qualitative and quantitative tools. She regularly meets with families, building relationships through mutual interest in the growth of their children. Ms. Acosta maintains a very high level of quality instruction every day she teaches that positively accumulates over the course of the year for her students. She creates a sense of belonging and trust that empowers them to reach their full potential."



Shannon Darcey

Newcomer ELD 1 Teacher, Urban Promise Academy

"Shannon always brings 100% to her work, and she has refined her exemplary instructional skills. She builds strong relationships with students and holds all to high expectations while also developing appropriate scaffolds to support students those who need more help. She has taken tremendous leadership this year to stabilize our Newcomer program during a year of transition. She planned numerous fieldtrips throughout the school year, including a two-night trip to Lake Tahoe where students when on snow night hikes, snowshoeing and sledding. She facilitates aspects of our teacher professional development and is often observed by Newcomer teachers at other school sites as an example of instructional excellence."



Jamila Edwards

Teacher, 4th Grade Sequoia Elementary

"Ms. Edwards is incredible at applying academic learning to real-life situations. Her students were required to open a "business" using real life calculations for their start-up and taught them how to anticipate challenges that were critical to keeping their businesses open. Our son was excited to participate and was challenged to improve his time management skills by independently following her very detailed required project timeline. She values student leadership, so her lessons, projects and the culture of the classroom required students to take initiative in keeping a positive classroom environment. Our son is often a follower, and we were surprised to hear that he took on leadership roles under her tutelage."



Ann-Marie Gamble

Teacher, 6th Grade Math, Urban Promise Academy

"Ms. Gamble excels in supporting her student's math skill development. Her techniques for helping students make their thinking visible, her frequent use of student talk strategies to assist them in explaining their thinking, and her small group instruction consistently results in significant improvement in students' math skills, thus building their mathematical confidence as they advance to 7th grade. She runs a Lego Club after school that students LOVE. This creative way she builds and reinforces students spatial thinking, creativity, and problem-solving is also fun and engaging for students. She adeptly plans lessons to support college and career readiness for the entire 6th grade including a college campus visit."



Mariano Gonzalez

Teacher on Special Assignment, Special Education

"Mariano's focus supports educators to revise and grow their IEP practice through analysis of data to craft rigorous, relevant goals for each student. Mariano demonstrates deep respect for the work of special education Case Managers, taking care to ensure the feedback he provides is coupled with support and guidance they can use immediately. He remains asset-based and gently encourages the growth of our educators. Mariano truly understands and models the ways a well-crafted IEP represents access and the civil right to an appropriate, meaningful education for our students with disabilities. He demonstrates deep knowledge and a commitment to self-reflection and self-improvement in his work."



Valerina Hilton

Teacher, Kindergarten, LaEscuelita

"Ms. Hilton creates special recognitions for students and provides opportunities for them to access music, theater, and art instruction as well as preparing them for assembly performances. To be in Ms. Hilton's classroom is to be welcomed into a safe and warm space, like a second home. Ms. Hilton provides crucial resources for families and instructs them on how to support students' learning goals at home. Ms. Hilton also provides social stories and best practice coaching to parents, supporting positive behavior at home and school. Moreover, she is a crucial support to her grade level partners at La Escuelita spending extra hours to co-plan and support when peers need help."



Kathy Locke

Teacher, ESL Family Literacy – Oakland Adult & Career Education @ Fruitvale Elementary

"I first met Ms. Kathy when I went with my mom to her English class. She showed off all the projects my mom had made with her classmates. It was as if, for a moment, my mom and I switched roles as student-parent, and I got to see the progress my mom had made in a year, and I had also realized she was now able to eavesdrop my conversations with my friends. I have seen firsthand how Ms. Kathy equips her students to learn English, but more importantly, feeling confident communicating in it. Ms. Kathy communicates with the teachers of her students' children and then explains contextually so parents can help their children at home!"



Tracey Matheney

Teacher, Preschool, Allendale ECE

"Ms. Tracey layers fun and engaging literacy and mathematics activities into play for her preschool students. When students have outdoor choice time, they can spend some time on the monkey bars or slides for a bit, then take a break, and pick an academic station to practice some type of skill from number writing and identification to letter creation with play dough. It is the additional opportunities she provides that demonstrate equity and support kindergarten readiness. Ms. Tracey is open to innovative ideas, demonstrates leadership in early learning, and strives to align preschool events to those of the greater Allendale School Community."



Melissa McDonald

Teacher, 8th Grade Humanities, Greenleaf Elementary

"In Ms. McDonald's roles as middle school Humanities teacher, teacher leader, and student leadership advisor, she has demonstrated a collaborative and compelling stance on educational equity, an infectious love of learning, and unflagging dedication to students and families. If you ask anyone about Ms. McDonald's classroom, they will most likely mention how she consistently requires students to consider the moral and ethical dimensions of historical events. She teaches students to see themselves as agents of change, which in our current cultural and political climate is much needed. She fosters a sense of possibility and empowerment in our students that is truly inspiring."



Natalie Tran

TK/Kindergarten Montclair Elementary

"Natalie displays a high degree of professionalism, responsibility, and dedication. She demonstrates the ability to collaborate with staff and teachers so that she can provide better instruction to each student. Natalie frequently incorporates more than one language and sign language into her instruction, which proves to be beneficial when instructing students with complex communication needs. Natalie cares about the wellbeing of all students and is very enthusiastic and caring. She utilizes person-centered, innovative planning to support their social, emotional, and academic needs in and out of the classroom. Throughout her instructional sessions Natalie provides clear and consistent expectations and feedback to all students."



LIFETIME EDUCATOR AWARD

The Lifetime Educator Award is a prestigious honor celebrating employees who have dedicated their lives to the profession of education. The recipients are educators who have made a lasting impact on the lives of students, colleagues, and communities. They have demonstrated unwavering commitment, outstanding leadership, and a profound dedication to fostering a culture of learning. They embody the highest standards of excellence in education and serve as inspiring role models for future generations of educators.



Sheila Richardson

Para Educator, Special Education

"Over the course of Ms. Richardson's 30-year career as an educator, she has made a lasting impact on the lives of countless students, colleagues, and communities. Her remarkable achievements and profound influence in her professional life, as well as offering up her personal time to shape future generations of the Young Adult Program, has left a lasting impact on countless students, colleagues, and communities. She fosters a culture of learning, inspires others, and advocates for student needs with phenomenal dedication. Known for her positivity and compassion and her dedication in service as a valuable member of her union's Executive Board as the Secretary to AFSCME Local 257, make her not only an outstanding educator and colleague, but also a remarkable person."



Lupauvette Taylor

Teacher, McClymonds High School

"Dr. Lupauvette Taylor, affectionately known as DT, epitomizes dedication and passion for a remarkable 54-year tenure, an impressive fifty focused specifically at McClymonds High. Her steadfast commitment and boundless love for generations of students has left an indelible mark on countless young lives, motivating them to strive for excellence. Dr. Taylor's classroom transcends mere instruction; it becomes a vibrant arena where learning thrives, and students are inspired to realize their fullest potential. Her unwavering presence, often the first to arrive and the last to depart from campus, underscores her unparalleled devotion to her teaching practice. A distinguished 1966 alumna of McClymonds herself, Dr. Taylor's roots run deep within the community."



EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

School leadership is difficult work, and those who excel at this work seamlessly and simultaneously support the success and growth of Teachers, Students, Colleagues, Schools and the District overall. Awardees in this category are models of the values, skills, development, and practice of Oakland school leadership, and spans roles and departments across the District.



Cynthia Bagby

Principal, Redwood Heights

"Cynthia has committed Redwood Heights to a multiple year participation with The Teaching Well (TTW). In our work with TTW, Cynthia has been the only Principal, nationally, that has been named and recognized by their staff as being one of the nameable differences for promoting a sense of safety and support. Cynthia prioritizes student agency and voice; there is no student issue that is too big or too small for her. She leads with humility, kindness, and grace—no ego—only a yes-and attitude. She is incredibly family and parent-focused, prioritizing their involvement in the school community. She has also piloted a Parent Equity Collective that centers leads from all parent groups at the school to address equity, digital citizenship, and more."



Alessandra Cabrera

Principal, Rudsdale High School

"Never have I known, or even heard of, a school leader as invested in and committed to her students on the ground. Alessandra's visionary leadership has attracted a team of educators and service providers, with whom she has worked to establish an on-site FabLab, a project-based-learning academic program, and Oakland's only Newcomer-specific continuation school pathway. Even through one of the most tragic experiences imaginable on a school campus, she made sure to hold space for everyone else. Every day after the shooting, she called to check in on all who were on campus that day, went to the hospital to visit with victims; planned healing and wellness activities for staff and students to return to a safe, loving, supportive, and caring space. As someone who leads with her enormous heart, she will always be a role model for me."



Jessica Cannon

Principal, Chabot Elementary

"Jessica Cannon is more than words - she walks the talk, especially when it comes to taking action in the face of harm. The day I took this job I watched Jessica hold a meeting for the Chabot community after a bomb threat that came because she held space for BIPOC families. I watched her receive threats to her own life and livelihood and stand taller for BIPOC families, unapologetically creating listening spaces for ALL. Jessica has spent more than two decades in OUSD supporting our students, families, and staff, building relationships and aligning values with practice, and leading with passion for what we need in our school communities. She exhibits excellence in every leadership domain. Above all else, she leads with compassion."



Tremaine Moore

Principal, Claremont Middle School

"In my first year at Claremont, he was teaching 8th grade English across the hall. His class served as a professional and personal goal for my own teaching. Daily affirmations could be heard with pride. Teamwork and kindness spilled out from his classroom to fill the hallways. As he transitioned to administration, I was thrilled to hear of his return to Claremont as the new Principal. He has brought that same passion for community building to the whole school structure. He has built and grown a great team which leads staff and students with purpose. We would not be where we are today without Mr. Moore. Claremont is a great school and community because of him."



Peter Van Tassel

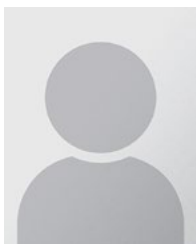
Principal, Cleveland Elementary

"Peter Van Tassel, aka, "VT" has created an extremely joyful and inclusive community at Cleveland Elementary. An exceptionally affable leader, he has led his staff to strong implementation of curriculum and has developed a teacher-centered Professional Learning Community (PLC) model that focuses on students, always keeping equity at the center of his decisions and actions. VT is a proud Oakland native; it is central to who he is. An equally proud Montera graduate (from the same year as Superintendent Johnson-Tramell!), he is extremely dedicated to OUSD and "The Town." His end-of-year OUSD Throwdown, FreshJamz, featuring his love of music and DJ skills, shows the side of him that is always ready to fuel colleagues with restoration and regeneration!"



PARENT, FAMILY, COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

This award is reserved for OUSD Community Members, Family Members and/or Parents who have been instrumental in creating the conditions for students to thrive in OUSD schools, and who have been instrumental in shaping District goals and culture and/or school culture and climate. They uphold OUSD values in service of students and families.



Lateefa Ali

**Vice-Chair of the Community Advisory Committee
for Special Education; Co-Chair of the District English
Language Learners Subcommittee**

"As Vice-Chair of the Community Advisory Committee for Special Education; Co-Chair of the District English Language Learners Subcommittee, she supports at least twelve nieces and nephews across many OUSD schools. Lateefa stands at the intersection of many lived experiences, fully honoring them in the way that she leads. She has always rolled up her sleeves to directly address gaps in service and attention, for her family members and for all students who fall through the cracks. She sets the table for others—studying foundational data, collaborating, chairing public meetings, rallying the participation of other members, offering public comment at Board meetings, and so much more to demonstrate her partnership for change. And she does this for two district advisory committees, at least 6-8 meetings per month!"



Pamela Erickson

PTA President, Crocker Highlands Elementary

"Pamela Erickson has helped cultivate a positive school community rooted in our four Equity Pillars of Awareness & Learning, Inclusion & Engagement, School System Reforms, and Community Connections. During her tenure as our school PTA President, she partnered with the school principal, teachers, and School Site Council Members to align the PTA budget spending with our school's Mission and Vision. Pamela's collaborative approach with stakeholder, both community and school staff, immensely helped with the transitioning back to school post-COVID in 2021. Under her leadership, the PTA focused on creating and cultivating joyful community building. Pamela Erickson should be recognized for her Servant Leadership. During her tenure Crocker Highlands was named the 2023 CA Distinguished School."



Michelle Leonce Coker

Lead Delegate, LCAP Parent and Student Advisory Committee

"Lead Delegate of LCAP Parent and Student Advisory Committee, Michelle is the calm and steady force at the center. As one of the four lead delegates, she is a careful manager of the committee's action plans, an expert in follow-through, and a guardian of the positive relationships between parent leaders, which are essential to the group's cohesion and efficacy. Michelle listens to the daily struggles of the members, who are mostly mothers that devote their precious time to serving all OUSD families and students. Michelle is also a gatherer of essential stories and key information from the other advisory committees of OUSD. She attends all committee meetings in her earnest allyship and solidarity with lived experiences different from her own. Compassion and empathy fuel her tireless leadership."



Ay'Anna Moody

Senior Director of Social Impact, Golden State Warriors

"As the Senior Director of Social Impact at Golden State Warriors, Ay'Anna leverages her diverse skill set in community development, public speaking, social media, and leadership to advocate for communities and students alike. As a proud second-generation Oakland native and former OUSD student, Ay'Anna's deep-rooted love for Oakland and its students fuels her ongoing support. She has pioneered innovative opportunities supporting staff and students in areas such as health, well-being, and financial literacy. Ay'Anna has facilitated memorable experiences for staff and students, including attending Golden State Warriors games and meeting legendary inspirational players. Because of Ay'Anna, over two hundred OUSD foster youth were able to attend a professional basketball game. She continually addresses community needs, forges partnerships, and enhances resources for the OUSD community."



Melissa Ramirez-Medina

Lead Delegate of the LCAP Parent & Student Advisory Committee (representing District 4 and Bret Harte Middle School); Co-Chair of the District English Language Learners' Subcommittee

"As Lead Delegate of the LCAP Parent & Student Advisory Committee and Co-Chair of the District English Language Learners' Subcommittee, Melissa has helped to clarify strong goals for ELL students. She has conducted a full and honest assessment of the interpretation/translation needs of families and ensures the District's commitment to meeting those needs. She has supported the restoration of English Language Learner committees at schools as spaces for families to advocate for their children. Melissa joins her co-chair in frequent meetings with staff to gather and monitor essential data, to clarify actions, and to ensure follow-through. She is committed to dialogue and collaboration with staff and other parents. Melissa crystallizes information in very accessible ways and for the benefit of everyone."



TEAM EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Team Excellence Award honors outstanding teamwork and collaboration within OUSD. Recognizing teams that have demonstrated exceptional performance, innovation, and dedication in achieving shared goals and objectives. Recipients of the Team Excellence Award exemplify the spirit of collaboration, communication, and mutual support, driving positive outcomes and making a significant impact on our success. Through their collective efforts, these teams have achieved remarkable results, surpassed expectations, and contributed to a culture of excellence, inspiring others to strive for excellence in teamwork and innovation.



Carlos Altamirano, Jorge Altamirano, Phillip Buckley, Fernando Campos, Solomon Hutalla, Samon Mor, Dennis Ochoa, Cesar Perez, Raul Rivas, William Spencer, Ward Zwickey

"The OUSD Truck Driving Team Employees from Warehouse and Procurement is honored and recognized for their ability to be flexible and adaptable under constant change, the centralization of District services, and their willingness to take on multiple new tasks, often urgently. Logistics and delivery are on-time demands, and this team fully steps up to the plate to deliver food, PPE, furniture, books, science kits, tables and chairs. It's overseen moves (1000 Broadway!) and unbelievable amounts of junk removal. They do their work with the highest service aim. This team has been Herculean in its efforts during the Broadway move, having to sort through piles of employee belongings, discarded supplies, hundreds of boxes taken to different locations. They have been clearing out the Cole location, portables at different sites, and all without losing their kindness and courtesy. They deliver chairs and tables for District events, recently on an emergency timeline on a Saturday. This 11-person team is made up of unsung heroes, often in the background, who ensure our students are fed and equipment is where it needs to be, on time and in time. They are a mighty crew!"



STUDENTS' CHOICE STAFF LEADER AWARD

Students from the OUSD community select a staff ally who has been instrumental in creating the conditions for students to be meaningfully engaged in learning, shaping school culture and climate. These adults demonstrate partnership in decisions that affect students for positive change and value the unique and diverse experiences of students in their school community with love, care, compassion, and respect.



Mark Airgood

Teacher, Sojourner Truth

"Mr. Airgood helps when help is needed, is one of the best teachers I've ever had, and he has a lot of patience with us when we don't understand something. I have learned a lot from Mr. Airgood; it's easy to understand his teaching and he creates a social, peaceful, and anxiety-free workplace. On Wednesdays (or days when we have almost no work), he lets us play Kahoot or other fun games. He's nice, cool, laid back, and it helps that he doesn't make us stressed with overwhelming amounts of schoolwork. He gives people space and cuts them some slack when students aren't in the best mood. He supports people by being nice and helping."



Glen Augustine

Teacher, Oakland Tech

"Dr. Auggie (as some call him) is a kind soul at heart. Whenever I greet him he says, 'Hello, nice person!'" It sets my day off to a good start. When you need a minute to get through a tough time, he's understanding and empathetic. Doctor Augustine leads his students to be better people. He shows us how we can make a better difference in our community and encourages to make good choices so our lives are better. I saw this when a young kid in our community was killed, and he talked about how a student of his many years ago was also shot. He was hurt deeply when it happened and still is. He's open and respectful about it and it makes a big difference on how we feel."



Laravian Battle

Teacher, Sojourner Truth

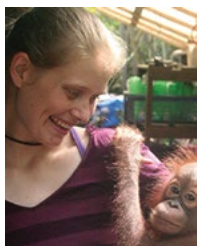
"Ms. Battle is a math game changer. She could teach Helen Keller math. Her wit, simplicity in teaching and bubbly, exciting approach taught me and others like me not only not be afraid to try but to achieve and that's BIG! I don't like when I miss her class. Yes, I said that because that is how EXCELLENT she is. As if she is entertaining company, making it enjoyable and leaving her guest/students feeling so confident and full, that we just want to share our experience and can't wait till the next party/class. Ms. Battle is Math Magnificence. The Best. OMG, Ms. Battles is so reachable. Need help she is there. Need someone to talk to; she is there. She is a comforter and motivator and just makes you want to learn."



Shannon Carey

Teacher, Oakland Tech

"Ms. Carey puts extra effort in supporting and caring for her students, both physically and mentally. She brings so much happiness and joy to all those that are in her class, to the point where they can go to her for anything. Overall, she is an excellent teacher at Oakland Tech. She demonstrates partnership, enthusiastically helping us participate in class. Her commitment extends beyond the classroom, positively impacting students' overall well-being and educational journey. She supports each and every student, continuously showing her care with all her classes. She cares about both their health and education. Students know she will support them through problem-solving situations and hardships."



Kylise Hare

Teacher, Oakland Tech

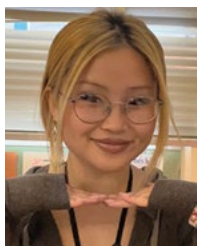
"In the beginning of my freshman year, Ms. Hare was the most accepting teacher I had. We would have circle time as a class and discuss things, which I enjoyed because none of my classes did that. It brought a sense of community and culture to the classroom. Ms. Hare is very understanding when it comes to students' needs that tend to have an effect on their ability to learn, making sure if she sees something, she reaches out to that child and their parent to get a better understanding. She is an overall outstanding member of our school community and involved in how to make things better for the students which I think is the goal of school. She makes sure students do nothing but succeed."



Joshua Harris

Teacher, Fremont High

"Mr. Harris creates a very welcoming classroom environment, where all students are given an equal opportunity to grow and learn while they receive all the support they need. He is a kind and supportive teacher, who does the absolute best to create an incredible learning environment and also building meaningful friendly relationships with his students. He makes sure that no student is left behind, and everyone understands the topic to the best of their abilities before moving on. Mr. Harris is awesome! He makes class feel like a place where everyone belongs and can succeed. He's always there to help us understand, and he really cares about each of us."



Dana LaLaw

Case Manager, Skyline High

"Ms. LaLaw shows real empathy for students while also encouraging them to succeed in school, she gives helpful instruction for real life situations, always giving good energy to me and my peers with a continuous positive attitude. In her first year at Skyline as a case manager, she upholds the Titan Way. She has forged important relationships with her pathway and house students so all computer and Themis students have a person on campus they connect with and turn to when they need help. She's there, helping us get through it all. Ms. LaLaw is like our rock, making everything smoother."



Riley Leggin

Teacher, Hillcrest Elementary

"Mr. Leggin is the best teacher I've ever had. He's very outgoing, sympathetic, funny, inclusive, and a fantastic person all around. Mr. Leggin is the most prepared teacher. He plans his heart out with very intricate lessons, like mini projects. Mr. Leggin teaches us in a way where we'll have fun yet also be challenged. During projects and assignments, he gives several progress checks and even offers to help the students himself during his prep time! Every student in his class masters the curriculum with ease even with the many challenges. Mr. Leggin communicates with parents about their children, no matter the circumstance. He led an amazing St. Patrick's day event and even his announcement talking about the middle school camping trip was great."



William Matthews

Teacher, Castlemont

"Mr. Matthews seems like he's always happy, and he is on top of everything. He gives us the best advice when it comes to making decisions and tells us to pick that one that will benefit us the most. One time I was in his class, and I understood everything so he let me teach a classmate. That made me feel like I was growing as a person; since I felt like he made me get comfortable to socialize with classmates. On days I was not having it, he encouraged me to keep on going. He gives me advice and helps me whenever I need it. Mr. Matthews is the best teacher ever!"



Faith Onwusa

Counselor, Oakland High

"Ms. Faith is very caring, always open, and easy to talk to. She's intelligent and always knows what to say, as well as being kind and honest. Also, she is an amazing Coach! She coaches and mentors all her cheerleaders and students in a good way. Ms. Faith always keeps her students sane. Every day, if you walk into her office, there will most likely be a student (or more than one) in her office, which shows how much people love and respect her. When grades start to drop, she finds ways to comfort her students but also keeps it real at the same time. She's humble and wouldn't judge anyone and is always here to help, whatever the case may be for anyone. I love Ms. Faith!"



Dr. Jessika Reyes-Serrano

Teacher, Oakland Tech

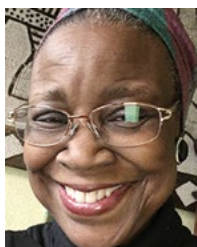
"Dr. Reyes is a very joyful person to be around! As a Spanish teacher whose classes are sometimes mixed with Spanish-speaking students and those just starting, she is able to find the perfect balance of keeping it challenging for the Spanish speaking students too. She gives us a supportive and challenging space. Dr. Reyes is the supervisor/ organizer of the Latino Student Union (LSU) group which shows us leadership and healthy relationships and culture. Dr. Reyes is not afraid of stepping up for what she believes is right regarding inequality. She is a very easy person to talk to, and since the first day of school, she has made her class a safe place where mistakes are more than welcome."



Michael Taylor

Teacher, Oakland Tech

"Mr. Taylor's classes are engaging, and he has effective teaching methods to help students learn the concepts well to be prepared for the AP test. He always has a smile on his face, is engaged in his lessons every day, and makes the extra effort to answer students' questions. Mr. Taylor allows quiz retakes, so we have the opportunity to raise our grade if we perform poorly. He works closely with the other statistics teacher to ensure an excellent curriculum for the students in both classes. He has helped so many students get fives on the AP exam. He is very easy to talk to; plus he makes sure to provide opportunities to ask questions and further explains topics to students."



Patricia Turner

Teacher, Sojourner Truth

"When I entered Sojourner in my 9th grade year, it was different and scary. Ms. Turner became my first responder, meaning she reached out to me and made me comfortable with my transition, and it was her caring and facilitation that helped me become comfortable with all my teachers and my new educational community. Since then, my growth has grown, and Ms. Turner's extra attention and concern for my educational progress has inspired me to keep rising. All teachers and staff can take a page from her. Ms. Turner's like the superhero of teachers, always there when you need her most."



DISTRICT LEADERSHIP AWARD

District leaders are individuals who step up and step in to play a critical role in support of OUSD's mission and vision. They are high performers who have a strong record of quality service and professionalism. They have brought system and process improvements to their work that visibly improve how we support Students, Teachers, Families, Schools and fellow employees.



Edana Anderson

**Program Manager, Community Schools,
Claremont Middle School**

"Edana supports students and families challenged with finances, housing, and food insecurity by providing backpacks, socks, hygiene products, and other necessities to our students. Many view Mrs. Anderson as their school mother, as she conducts home visits and partners with PTA and local stores to provide holiday food bags for families in need. Edana leads our culture and climate committee, inviting staff and student input, decreasing suspensions and negative behaviors, and increasing school spirit. She offers a safe space for families to ensure they are kept in the loop of their children's attendance, behavior, and overall school needs. Edana makes coming to work the best place to be."



Laura Augustus

Manager, Strategic Initiatives, Talent Division

"Laura is our go-to systems expert and the most incredibly brilliant data mind in Talent Division. She writes code, creates beautiful tableau dashboards highlighting data trends, provides internal and outward facing data requests. She has a focus toward efficiency, integrity, and follow through across HR systems and processes. Beyond this, Laura is an incredible thought partner and can easily highlight ways to strengthen systems, processes, and operations. Our team often doesn't realize how efficient they could be until Laura sets her sights on a problem and produces a spreadsheet, seemingly in no time at all! OUSD is so fortunate to have her brilliant mind, capacities, and skills in service of its systems."



Ericka Doolittle

Manager, Publications, District Communications

"Ericka Doolittle is the rock of the communications team. Deeply invested in communicating important events and information to our staff and community, Ericka has multifaceted institutional knowledge, which helps all of us in our work. We could not keep the District as well informed as we do without her. She leads our newsletter work and authors much of the District messaging. Every year she oversees the Districtwide Student & Family Handbook, corralling collected information into one large cohesive document to keep families and students informed. She is an outstanding mentor to newer members of our team, holds a wealth of institutional knowledge she is happy to share, and is a joy to work with!"



Juan Du

Executive Director, Research, Assessment & Data

"Juan has taken on all Assessment Team leadership roles and has improved processes, offered more direct testing support for school sites, and increased collaboration to support the administration of assessments in OUSD. She leads the Data Team which includes partnerships with not only other OUSD departments but nonprofits, research institutions and other state and federal monitoring groups. Whenever I am confused about a data problem or need an articulate, clear eyed, thought partner, I always turn to Juan. She saves me time and makes me wiser. She has a wealth of knowledge about all things research, assessment and data and has an uncanny ability to remember, draw connections, and strategize."



Allison Henkel

Senior Director, Strategic Projects, Talent Division

"Allison has unbelievable levels of brilliance, and she employs it in service of our entire system. She has an abiding belief that when our systems work better on behalf of employees, it supports our District vision, where employees are more likely to stay and have greater ability to focus on their work. She is a master at change management—an authentic partner—she listens, collaborates, implements, and catalyzes. When employees receive prompt responses from talent@ousd.org, easily enroll in benefits, post absences, or find information quickly and clearly, Allison is a big reason why. She has served students and families in Oakland in SO many ways—after school program leader, principal, and District leader. She deserves to be recognized!"



Kayla Le

Manager, Central Office Accounting,
Office of Chief Business Officer

"All organizations are successful when they retain employees like Kayla Le, someone whose contributions to the District are exemplary. There have been extended days, nights and weekends that she has labored over budget development, audits, or financial reporting. If you have questions about how best to spend your grant, or when a check can be paid to a vendor, or if an investment using your ASB funds (or any other funding source) is allowed, then Kayla will have you covered. Her many attributes—kindness, diligence, and her exemplary technical skills—are much appreciated by those who know her. Kayla's dedication to constant improvement, innovation, and assisting other employees, makes her the ideal employee for OUSD's Honoring Our Own event!"



Brian McGhee

Program Manager, Community Schools,
McClymonds High School

"Mr. McGhee has been an awesome addition to McClymonds as the Community School Manager. He has created numerous valuable partnerships both for our students and our school. He is constantly looking for ways to uplift and celebrate our students. Mr. McGhee has instituted the Parent Empowerment Hour, where he meets with the parents monthly. The parents receive valuable information ranging from health, continuing education, and financial literacy to name a few. Mr. McGhee utilizes his own personal network to advocate for multiple resources for McClymonds students. He has personally connected multiple students with after school jobs. Words cannot express how fortunate we are to have him on our team!"



Cintya Molina

Program Manager, LCAP, Office of Equity

"As Program Manager for our District level family and community advisory bodies, Cintya ensures we have representative and meaningful engagement with families directly impacted by changes to services and funding meant to support our most vulnerable populations. She spends countless hours with District committee parent members safeguarding their understanding of complexities found in our District plans. She ensures they are prepared to speak from their experience and give recommendations that benefit not only their own children, but all children, especially those farthest from opportunity. Cintya has earned so much respect and love for her fierce racial and disability justice advocacy, both as a parent leader herself and as a staff member supporting parents in leadership roles."



Stephanie Noriega

Program Manager, Newcomer & Refugee, English Language Learner and Multi-Lingual Achievement

"Stephanie's daily efforts to support, train, and RETAIN a team of Newcomer Social Workers serving some of our most vulnerable youth across our District is outstanding. Her programmatic, systemic, and direct support make a difference in literally thousands of students' lives. Stephanie Noriega fully embodies the ideas of serving the whole child, eliminating inequity, and providing each child with an excellent school experience every day. Her efforts to provide social and emotional support in fifteen of our secondary schools is unparalleled. Her system building, support of staff, and unrelenting student focus is what our District (and our nation) need right now!"



Diana Sherman

Coordinator, Local Control Accountability Plan, Strategic Resource Planning

"Diana is chiefly responsible for writing the LCAP; however, she also helps lead in the allocation of resources. She works through complicated projects, consistently producing excellent work. She is thorough and an excellent critical thinker. I have supervised over one hundred employees in OUSD, and Diana is one of the very best. She is resilient and perseveres until we reach the project goals we undertake. She understands education policies and their impact on the work that we do in Strategic Resource Planning. She has been an influential leader in our District, assessing the impact of our resources, and aiding staff in understanding our overall budget. Many sites reach out to Diana for support because she is excellent in her customer service!"



SUPERINTENDENT'S EXCELLENCE AWARDS

As Superintendent, Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell selects her recognition awards based on individuals who exemplify the best in what we seek from our employees—that is, individuals willing to take risks, innovate and collaborate with fellow employees to further the District's mission.



Sondra Aguilera
Chief Academic Officer

"From her beginnings as a classroom elementary teacher in East Oakland to her role as the founder of Esperanza Elementary School, Dr. Aguilera's journey has been one of unwavering commitment to the betterment of our schools and communities. Her leadership in various positions within the District, from Human Resources, Special Education, and Curriculum and Instruction, has been characterized by a fierce advocacy for students, particularly those most vulnerable and in need of support. Dr. Aguilera's tireless efforts to maximize district resources for the benefit of our students have been nothing short of inspiring. With a quiet strength and steady focus on improving student outcomes, she has worked diligently to unravel complex system problems, ensuring that school sites can prioritize the education and well-being of Oakland's youth.

As we reflect on Dr. Aguilera's legacy of service and leadership, we are reminded of the values that she embodies - putting students first, upholding integrity, promoting equity, and striving for excellence in all endeavors. Her impact on the Oakland Unified School District is immeasurable, and her dedication to the betterment of our educational system serves as a shining example for us all."

ENTERTAINMENT

Tonight’s entertainment is provided by the Elmhurst United Middle School Cheer Team and the Skyline High School Jazz Band.

Elmhurst United Cheer Team

The Elmhurst United Cheer team was started in 2018 and has been thriving ever since. Elmhurst United Cheerleaders display leadership, respect, and academic excellence every day. The team has been undefeated at OAL Cheer competitions for three years in the hip hop and show cheer categories. After fundraising all year, the team also won second place at JAMZ 2024 Cheer and Dance Nationals in the hip hop category this year! Next year, they are pursuing first place under coaches Eryn Swarn, Shawn Hawkins, and Samara Atkins. Team members include:

Jemiya Major (captain)	A'Marah Brandon	Karen Pablo Perez	Niveha Mayfield
Ja'nya Moore	Daeshia Stewart	Melissa Molina Romero	Adalena Dargan
Ariyana Tottingham	Kailee Hamilton	Maliya Tottingham	Sapphire Adams Harris

Skyline High School Jazz Band

The Skyline High School music program prides itself on using music as a tool to provide a rigorous education for all students and as a vehicle for creating and interacting with our community. Led by band director and educator, Adam Green, Skyline High School's award-winning jazz band is excited to be a part of this community-centered event that Honors Our Own.

Saxophones

Amerencia Balquist
Corryn Bailey
Liam Geissler
Leah Schatz
Casey Pineda

Flute

Victoria Nguyen

Clarinet

Elias Janeiro
Rafael
De Robertis-Harris
Lawrence Edmond
Carla Kruger-Moore
Woodrow Stritzel

Trumpet

Jaden Alvarez
Wedderburn
Siris Bradshaw
Saeed Colson
Kaelon Colston
Ian Schweickert

Trombone

Jackson La Syd Suttles

Guitar

Moss Rieben
Charlotte Scolari

Piano/Keyboard

Logan Fanene
Micah Ogden

Drums/ Percussion

Keith Barnes
Ramauri Cash Hamilton
Ian Von Kugelgen



OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Schools, Thriving Students

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