



Inspiration

From the desk of Ted Alejandro, County Superintendent



Congratulations Class of 2021



The sixth annual Student Services commencement ceremony for the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools is quickly approaching on Thursday, June 17. The drive-thru event will take place at the Barbara Phelps County Community School located in Redlands with over 170 students from each region expected to attend.

The excitement among our staff and students is building as we near this momentous occasion to celebrate the resilient seniors of the Class of 2021. It has been inspiring to see the students of our County Schools find and create their own [possibilities](#) even when confronted with the unpredictable learning conditions of this past year.

Our program's graduates are among an impressive cohort of seniors in our county who successfully navigated the intricacies of distance learning and the transition back to in-person instruction. The courage and commitment they exhibited during this unprecedented school year is admirable, and I am impressed by how they overcame the obstacles set before them. With hundreds of hours of zoom webinars, these students have demonstrated their capacity to go the extra mile.

Along with members of the County Board of Education and County Schools principals, I am eager to recognize every graduate who has worked hard to reach this milestone. It is a significant occasion for our students and an emotional experience for staff and family

Volume 7, Issue 6

Newsroom Spotlights

News & Events



Catch up on the latest news and events from San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools.

[Read more.](#)

Register for The Southern Region Student Wellness Conference



We invite you to the 2021 Southern Region Student Wellness Conference where, in waves of change, we discover oceans of possibilities! This year's virtual conference will showcase dynamic presentations from leaders who support innovative approaches for student success during changing times.

[Learn more.](#)

Designing Equitable

members who have supported our graduates every step of the way.

It is with great joy and pride that I offer all the seniors celebrating their commencement this year my best wishes. Your future is bright, and I know you are ready to take the next step into the wider world. Congratulations to the remarkable Class of 2021!

County Schools Celebrates Classified School Employees of the Year and Regional Teachers of the Year



Pictured Regional Teachers of the Year (L to R) Yvonne Molles representing Melissa Macias-Lares, Jill Wiegmann, Anita Miller, Elizabeth "Betty" Romero, Mariah Arellanes and Theresa Gonzales.

It was a privilege recognizing outstanding classified, certificated and counseling staff for their dedication to students in San Bernardino County.

On May 27, it was my honor to award six recipients with the Classified School Employees of the Year award. They embody what it means to be a servant leader, dedicated to exemplary customer service, and committed to student achievement. Our classified staff are invaluable to fostering a positive culture at their school or administrative site and are essential to the success of our students and families.

I know each of the honorees were deeply touched by the kind comments shared by their colleagues and administrators. It was a fantastic opportunity to share our gratitude for their amazing contributions to the educational community. They work closely with our teaching staff to provide a first-class learning environment for all.

It was also a pleasure to honor our five regional Teachers of the Year and one Counselor of the Year at



Instructional Programs in a Digital Era - June 10



Join us for the first of three Designing Equitable Instructional Programs in a Digital Era sessions, starting on June 10 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. This virtual three-part series will focus on integrating 21st century instructional design and digital integration through the lens of access & equity.

[Learn more.](#)

2021 SBCSS Schools Recognition Virtual Ceremony

San Bernardino County Superintendent
of Schools and San Bernardino County
Board of Education

2021 Schools Recognition Virtual Ceremony



If you missed our 2021 SBCSS Schools Recognition Virtual Ceremony, it can now be viewed on our YouTube channel! Congratulations to all the outstanding schools who were recognized! You are truly transforming lives through education.

[Watch the video.](#)

SBCSS and KVCR Partner to create Children's Program - Learn With Me



San Bernardino County
Superintendent of Schools has

the county board of education meeting on June 7. Counselor of the Year is a new San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools award for 2021.

The recipients are:

- Betty Romero, Desert Mountain special education, Hesperia High School, Hesperia
- Jill Wiegmann, East Valley special education, Eisenhower High School, Rialto
- Melissa Macias-Lares, West End special education, Woodcrest Junior High, Ontario
- Theresa Gonzales, state preschool, Newman State Preschool, Chino
- Anita Miller, alternative education, Independent Learning Academy, Yucca Valley
- Mariah Arellanes, counselor, SBCSS Counseling Center, Victorville

We have a tremendous community of educators, and these six individuals elevated their commitment to engage students during extraordinary circumstances. Congratulations to Betty Romero who was selected as the SBCSS Regional Teacher of the Year! She will advance to the next level for consideration as the Countywide Teacher of the Year event in the coming months.

I want to thank SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union for their sponsorship of both programs and their unwavering support of public education.

Thank you to our incredible classified, certificated and counseling staff for your dedication.

For more information, please visit our newsroom.

Footsteps2Brilliance Continues to Engage Young Students and Develop Early Literacy



I am excited to announce one of our most impactful initiatives, Footsteps2Brilliance, is kicking off the summer with a reading challenge designed to help young readers develop important and fundamental literacy skills. The fourth annual Footsteps2Brilliance Summer Reading Challenge will be held from July 1 through September 30.

partnered with Empire KVCR to produce a 30 minute educational children's program called *Learn with Me!*

[Learn more.](#)

Join the 4th Annual Footsteps2Brilliance Summer Reading Challenge



San Bernardino County Superintendent Ted Alejandre and San Bernardino County Literacy Partners invite our young students to join our 4th Annual Footsteps2Brilliance Summer Reading Challenge from July 1-September 30!

[Learn more.](#)
[Watch the video.](#)

SBCSS Children Deserve Success Distribute New Uniforms



SBCSS Children Deserve Success and Children's Fund distributed hundreds of boxes of new clothes and uniforms to over 25 public and charter school districts on May 25.

[See the photos.](#)

Footsteps2Brilliance is a comprehensive bilingual literacy app that can be used on any mobile device with or without an Internet connection. In 2017, our office partnered with County of San Bernardino Preschool Services, First 5 San Bernardino and Children's Fund to provide the app free of charge to any family living in San Bernardino County. This innovative program is part of the broader Countywide Vision2Read literacy campaign.

I am proud to share that during last year's Summer Reading Challenge, San Bernardino County students exceeded their summer reading goal by 273%! More than 18,636,846 words were read and 26,389 books completed. Since April 2017, our students have spent over 95,000 hours learning in Spanish and English on the Footsteps2Brilliance platform.

Over the past year, the Footsteps2Brilliance virtual platform was used more widely than ever before as it helped keep our youngest students engaged during distance learning. The platform has also allowed our teachers to continue tracking the overall literacy progress of their students and plan for better ways to transition back to in-person instruction.

We know that reading at grade level by third grade is one of the best predictors of children's success in school, and their likelihood of going on to post-secondary school and beyond.

It is my sincerest hope that every child is afforded equal and equitable access to platforms such as Footsteps2Brilliance. This will not only help increase literacy rates but will be transforming lives in the process.

Watch the impact of Footsteps2Brilliance over the past year [here](#).

[Register](#) for Footsteps2Brilliance.

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Superintendent Alejandro issues this monthly publication to keep stakeholders informed about the many services and programs SBCSS provides our learning community throughout the year.

[View the 2020 archive.](#)