



INSPIRATION

From Ted Alejandre



County Superintendent's Monthly Message



[Click above to watch the video newsletter](#)

Now that the 2021-22 school year is in full swing, I had the pleasure of visiting many of our schools and meeting with support staff, teachers and administrators who have all had a hand in safely bringing children back into the classrooms. We all know how much our students have been looking forward to seeing their classmates, and their teachers. Our classrooms are once again filled with laughter, excitement and a passion to learn.

Educators from 12 schools across the county received a pleasant surprise! Through collaborations with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Employees' Benefit Association (SEBA), teachers were given an extra boost in resources. SEBA awarded a total of \$25,000 during their annual Back to School Shop with a Cop Teacher's Edition event. Teachers will use the funds to enhance their classrooms to keep students engaged.

I'm excited to announce we will now be distributing our Inspiration Newsletter on the last Monday of the month, so we can share all the amazing things that are happening throughout the county and, look ahead at what's to come.

Quickly approaching is the first round of the San Bernardino County Mock Trial competition, one of the many student events sponsored by SBCSS, which kicks off

November 3. The competition simulates a criminal case where hundreds of students can present their case before a real judge. This program is a collaborative effort with the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office. Due to the ongoing pandemic, students will compete in the first four rounds virtually. The winner of the county competition will advance to the state finals this spring.

Please [watch](#) this month's video newsletter to learn more about the inspiring ways we are transforming lives through education, together.

Sincerely,

Ted Alejandre
County Superintendent of Schools



The Newsroom

County Teachers of the Year and Teachers for Tomorrow Recognized



The San Bernardino County Board of Education and I honored four countywide Teachers of the Year and two Teachers for Tomorrow during a virtual awards ceremony this month.

Behind the scenes, our educators have worked tirelessly to create a safe, inviting and inspiring learning environment for students to return to. I see the work they put in and it's important for me to recognize those who have gone above and beyond. This is a prestigious award that spotlights our incredible educators. The teachers were nominated by

their individual districts and reviewed by a county panel that made the final selections. This year's award recipients will compete in the California Teacher of the Year event.

This year's County Teachers of the Year are:

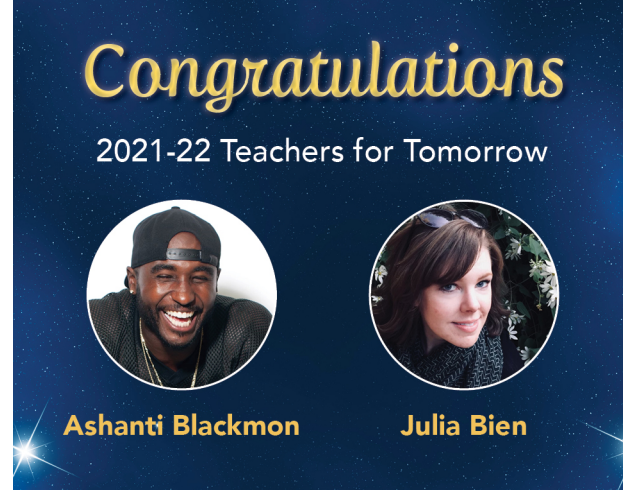
- Ryan Edwards, from Etiwanda High School at Chaffey Joint Union High School District;
- Lillianne Legrá-Rodríguez, from Central Language Academy at Ontario-Montclair School District;
- Christopher Rekstad, from Valley Elementary at Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District;
- Jasmine Saunders, from Elderberry Elementary School at Ontario-Montclair School District.

Teachers for Tomorrow provides financial assistance to California School Employees Association members who are employed by County Schools and are currently pursuing a course of study that will lead to obtaining a teaching credential.

This year's County Teachers for Tomorrow are:

- Ashanti Blackmon, a paraeducator at Colony High School at Chaffey Joint Union High School District
- Julia Bien, a paraeducator at Apple Valley County Education Center

[Learn more.](#)



CTA Grant Funds Tools and Hands-on Experience for Students



One of our priorities is to provide every one of our students the opportunity to learn and recognize their unique potential, and sometimes, that means creating a new path to success.

Our Career Technical Education (CTE) auto shop received an amazing gift. Thanks to the collaboration and advocacy of our administrators, union leaders, teachers and site staff, Bob Murphy Community Day School was chosen for a grant which totaled \$13,159.39. This allowed us to purchase industry-standard tools such as a new wheel balancer and tabletop

tire changer expandable.

I saw the excitement of our students first-hand as they received real, hands-on experience with the new tools. It was a heartwarming reminder of how the work we all do behind-the-scenes can elevate a student's education and ignite a passion. The skills students learn at the CTE auto shop are ones they can put into practice and take with them after graduation. These are practical, applicable trade skills that can launch a career. This is what we strive to provide for all our students.

[Learn more.](#)

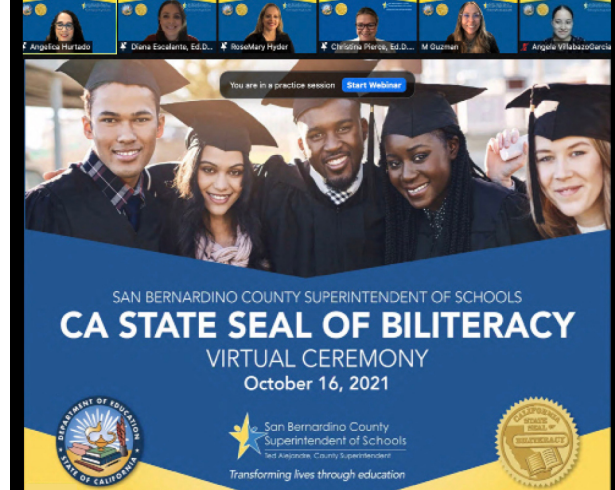
Inaugural Biliteracy Ceremony Creates College Advantage

I am pleased to announce the very first virtual ceremony here at San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools to honor prospective high school students who have demonstrated a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading and writing in one or more languages, in addition to English. They're also on track to receive the State Seal of Biliteracy.

Our State is a pioneer for multilingualism, and now, our County is

too.

While the State traditionally awards the honor at the end of the school year, I recognized the importance of holding a ceremony this month, so our seniors can include this accomplishment on their college applications, which they begin to submit in Fall. I am proud County Schools supported this effort with the purchase of language assessments for our senior candidates. With this tool, every student studying a second or third language has a chance to qualify for the California State Seal of Biliteracy.



This is just one way we are celebrating milestones and creating an avenue for universities and workplaces to also acknowledge the skillsets our students take with them, from cradle to career.

[View the video](#) and [Learn more](#).

Students Share Struggles and Successes at Countywide Safety Summit



It is inspiring to see our community come together to keep our students safe. It is one of our top priorities here at SBCSS, and why it is so important to collaborate with our community partners.

This year's San Bernardino Countywide Gangs and Drugs Task Force Safety Summit brought together law enforcement leaders throughout the County and our staff here at SBCSS. I had the pleasure of making the opening remarks alongside 47th District California State Assemblymember Eloise Gomez-Reyes.

This was an eye-opening and important discussion. Not only did we hear from the Chiefs of our law enforcement agencies, but our students. A panel of teens and young adults who have been in foster care or experienced homelessness shared their unique challenges. They also spoke about the people and resources that helped them.

One of the young panelists made a comment about the importance of including student voices at the summit. She shared she experienced homelessness and the foster care system and appreciated the opportunity to speak. She said, it "helps me know my voice is valued."

We are here to listen, to learn and to act on ways to serve students across our County.

[Learn more](#)

Have a story idea for our newsletter? We want to hear from you!

[Submit Your Newsletter Ideas Here](#)



[Visit the Newsroom](#)

Keep up with the latest stories from our Newsroom. Monthly articles feature staff, students and outstanding work being done throughout our county.



[Visit the SBCSS Photo Gallery](#)

See the latest photos in our official SBCSS gallery. Each month we add images from noteworthy events that highlight staff, students and programs across San Bernardino County.

[Visit our Website](#)



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

[View the 2020 archive.](#)