

FONTANA UNIFIED FORWARD

Newsletter

Board of Education Selects New Superintendent



Following a nationwide search and a lengthy process of gathering input from District employees and community members, the Fontana Unified District Board of Education has selected Miki Inbody to serve as the District's new superintendent.

Ms. Inbody has deep ties to Fontana Unified, having attended schools in the District and previously worked for the District. The Fontana Unified Board of Education appointed Ms. Inbody during the Feb. 1 Board meeting; her contract was then approved by the Board during its Feb. 15 meeting.

Miki "Duran" Inbody started her educational journey in Head Start. From there, she attended Maple Elementary School in Fontana from first through sixth grade, Alder Junior High School (now Alder Middle School) from seventh through ninth grade, and graduated from Fontana High School. She then returned to teach at Almeria Middle School in the District from 1991 through 1996, followed by a promotion to Dean of School Improvement at Almeria, and then

Assistant Principal at Southridge Middle School and the elementary school level. She then was promoted to Principal at Oleander Elementary and opened a new school, Ted J. Porter Elementary School.

She then transitioned to the District office, serving as the Director of Professional Development and Teacher Support and Interim Director of Human Resources. She went on to serve as Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services in Redlands Unified School District, before returning to Fontana to assume the role of Associate Superintendent of Teaching and Learning. Ms. Inbody is currently the Assistant Superintendent of Education Support Services at San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools.

Human Resources Roundup Recruitment/Hiring

The District has maintained and expanded its recruitment efforts using a variety of modalities, which has significantly expanded visibility and positively impacted the District's ability to gain applicants for positions that are challenging to fill. In recent weeks, the District has conducted several interviews for positions that include special education teacher aide positions, both single subject and multiple subject teacher positions and various coordinator positions. The District has also been able to conduct interviews for a CTE auto teacher position, TK teacher positions, ELA intervention positions, a math intervention position, kitchen assistants, LVNs, preschool aides and clerk typists. The District has been able to make multiple new hires every month, including SPED teacher aides, teachers and various classified substitutes. As the District works to fill vacancies, it has also conducted a testing series for candidates for teacher aide positions, senior buyer and research analyst; this also included candidates for a vacant executive assistant position, kitchen operator and administrative secretary. This testing series produced a great pool of candidates for the interview process.

Other HR Activities

The District has started the process for selecting employees of the year and is excited about recognizing the phenomenal employees who go above and beyond for students every day! District administrators and staff have reached out principals and department leaders to provide guidance and initiate the program for this school year. The District is planning an amazing recognition event in the coming months to recognize all the award recipients; more information will be provided as the date draws near.

Around Campus

Citrus High Named 2023 Model Continuation High School



Citrus High School has been named a 2023 Model Continuation High School by the California Department of Education (CDE), recognizing its holistic approach to supporting student success and social-emotional wellness on the path to graduation.

Citrus High, among just 37 continuation schools to receive the award this year, will retain its Model Continuation High School designation for three years and be honored at the CCEA Plus 2023 State Conference in April.

"We are honored to be recognized by the CDE and the California Continuation Education Association Plus as a Model Continuation High School," Citrus High Principal Mike Bunten said. "CHS staff members have earned this recognition through their commitment to supporting every student with an alternative pathway that prepares them for college and career."

Fontana Unified Celebrates Black History Month



Fontana Unified recognized Black History Month in February with districtwide events that honored Black students' achievements. Those activities included an awards ceremony at Fontana High School, an activity-filled celebration at Southridge Tech Middle School, and a student artwork showcase featured at the John D. Piazza Center and the Steelworkers' Auditorium during the city's Jazz Fest. FUSD schools also held their own celebrations and educational activities on campus.

FUSD Receives Federal and State Grants to Provide Districtwide Mental Wellness Training

Recognizing a need to increase mental health awareness throughout the school district and community, Fontana Unified will begin a comprehensive mental health and wellness training initiative after being awarded a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services worth more than \$400,000.

The SAMSHA grant, which will be split over four years, will go to the District's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) department to fund specialized training in detecting the signs of mental illness so that District staff can respond in a timely manner to avert a mental health crisis. Training will also be provided to the community so that families can better identify early warning signs of mental illness.

Fontana Unified is one of just two California school districts to receive a SAMSHA grant in 2022. The grant will be supplemented by a California Department of Education Antibias Education grant worth nearly \$200,000. The grants further bolster the District commitment to mental wellness, which includes the hiring of three additional full-time District social emotional support specialists and seven mental health therapists in the last year.

FUSD Student Board Member Honored by Big Brothers Big Sisters



Fontana High School senior and FUSD's 2022-23 Student Board Member, David Muñoz-Padilla, was named the 2023 "High School BIG of the Year" by the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Empire. Muñoz-Padilla was selected over nominees from six districts for his support, coaching and kindness to his mentee, as well as advocacy of the program.

Jurupa Hills High Photography Students Find Keys to Success, Take Top Prizes at Scholastic Art Awards



Jurupa Hills High School senior Jesse Juarez's talent as a photographer was recognized early in his teens, when he posted photos on Instagram while still in middle school. At Jurupa Hills, Juarez began honing his skills under the guidance of photography teacher Rebecca Cauchon, who encouraged him to expand his horizons and consider a career in visual and digital arts.

Juarez is one of five Jurupa Hills students whose work was recognized for excellence by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, with Juarez winning a coveted Gold Key Award at the 2023 Scholastic Art & Writing West Coast Region Awards for his photo collage "Many Me." The collage will be featured as

part of the Alliance's annual National Exhibition, to be held in New York City in the spring.

Juarez was joined by seniors Rosemary Atkins ("Run, Hide, Fight") and Roxana Silva ("Blue Goddess"), who received Silver Key Awards. Jurupa Hills senior Anita Rodriguez ("Eyedentity Theft") and junior Sam Aguba ("Paranoid Droid") received Honorable Mentions for their work.

"It feels unreal. I just started taking pictures for fun, but now I want to show everyone who I am and inspire other photographers," Juarez said. "Digital art and photography are great tools and give you the ability to explore yourself creatively. 'Many Me' details the many emotions that go on inside your head, all the different personalities. Winning the Gold Key Award is a big achievement. I'm very proud."

DHIA Teacher Receives Alma Flor Ada Award

Ashley Silva believes that providing students an opportunity to learn a second language will create a community empowered to fight for social justice and guide future generations. Inspired by the Hawaiian concept of 'Ohana, the Dolores Huerta International Academy (DHIA) sixth-grade Spanish dual-language immersion teacher considers each student in her classroom to be part of her family.

In Silva's classrooms, students support and encourage each other, even in their most difficult moments, and grow as a family, sharing stories and building on personal connections. For providing these unforgettable learning moments, Silva was recognized with the fifth annual Alma Flor Ada Award for Social Justice. Silva received her award during the Jornada Pedagógica Professional Development Conference, held Feb. 4 at Loyola Marymount University.



"Thank you so much for this experience. It's a privilege to accept this honor," Silva said. "Being a teacher is my dream job and my passion, and each day I get to help guide our children into the future. This is what motivates me the most. My hope is that through my achievements our students will see that with enthusiasm, everything is possible. As we always say at Dolores Huerta, 'si se puede!'"

Winter Sports Highlight

Congratulations to all of our Fontana Unified student-athletes on a successful winter season! Many FUSD teams captured league titles and advanced to CIF play in a variety of sports.

A.B. Miller High School

- Boys Soccer – Advanced to CIF semifinals
- Wrestling – Mountain Valley League champions, four individual girls champions, three individual boys champions, advanced to CIF. Setsianna Kraynak placed fourth in CIF-SS North Division at 116 pounds and competed at Masters.

Fontana High School

- Cheer – Swept in jumps, first place in students and first-place overall at SHARP competition
- Boys Basketball – Advanced to first round of CIF
- Girls Basketball – Advanced to first round of CIF
- Girls Water Polo – San Andreas League Champions for sixth year
- Boys Soccer – Advanced to first round of CIF
- Wrestling – Two individual boys league champions, three individual girls league champions, 26 wrestlers advanced to CIF tournament. Valeria Chairez finished third in her weight class at CIF-SS Eastern Divisional Individuals Championships and competed at Masters

Kaiser High School

- Girls Basketball – San Andreas League Champions

Jurupa Hills High School

- Boys Basketball – San Andreas League Champions, advanced to first round of CIF
- Boys Soccer – Advanced to first round of CIF
- Girls Soccer – Advanced to CIF quarterfinals

Summit High School

- Cheer – three-time Division 2 Coed CIF Southern Section champions, advanced to CIF state competition
- Boys Basketball – Advanced to first round of CIF
- Girls Basketball – Advanced to first round of CIF
- Girls Soccer – Advanced to first round of CIF
- Girls Water Polo – Placed second in league and advanced to CIF

North Tamarind Elementary Welcomes New Principal



Fontana Unified School District has named Tim Yelin, a proven leader with extensive classroom experience, to serve as the new principal of North Tamarind Elementary School.

Yelin brings 17 years of educational experience – all spent in Fontana Unified – to his role as North Tamarind's top administrator. Throughout his career, Yelin taught at the elementary, middle and high school levels, before stepping into an administrative role as assistant principal at A.B. Miller High School.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to step into this new role and serve the North Tamarind community," Yelin said. "I believe that education is a team effort, and I look forward to working with the North Tamarind teachers, staff and families to make a positive impact on students and make North Tamarind the best it can be."