

# EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION *Awards Show*



Fresno Unified  
School District

ACHIEVING OUR *GREATEST* POTENTIAL



# Fresno Unified School District



xcellence in Education is Fresno Unified School District's employee recognition program designed to celebrate and honor the many outstanding employees who serve the district's students and their families. Candidates are

nominated by their peers and evaluated by a selection committee through an interview process. Each year, one certificated winner, one administrator winner and the classified winner go on to represent Fresno Unified School District at the county level.

Congratulations to the 2025  
Excellence in Education Finalists!





## Fresno Unified School District

February 6, 2025

Tonight, we celebrate and honor excellence in our Fresno Unified family!



Congratulations to our Excellence in Education finalists! This recognition means that your very own colleagues have seen your hard work, dedication and care for our students and our district – this is truly the highest praise. You have set yourself apart through your passion for what you do, and it is truly my pleasure to recognize you for going above and beyond for our district.

This award means that your team sees you every day living out the goals of our district. This award is more than just recognition. It's a huge "thank you" from your colleagues and from me personally.

Thank you for exemplifying our district's two priority goals: To improve student outcomes and to achieve operational excellence through excellent customer service. While you as finalists differ widely in your roles and responsibilities, you are finding ways in your daily work to support student achievement and provide exemplary customer service. Thank you for being a positive light for all those who work with you and the students you support.

I am incredibly honored to work alongside you in this Fresno Unified family. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor!

Respectfully,

Misty Her  
Interim Superintendent

# *Program*

**Dr. Lisa Mitchell**

*Executive Director, African American Academic Acceleration*

**Dr. Carlos Castillo**

*Chief of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*

**Valerie F. Davis**

*Board President*

**Misty Her**

*Interim Superintendent*

**Honoring Finalists and Award Winners**



## CLASSIFIED



**Charles Bell**  
Sunnyside Region



**Leticia deSantiago**  
Department of Student  
Engagement



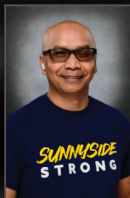
**Conrad Gonzales**  
Hoover High School



**Yulissa Guzman**  
Sunnyside High School



**Camille Myles**  
Adult Transition Program



**Han Nou**  
Sunnyside High School



**Margaret Riedinger**  
Wawona K-8 School



**Otilia Sanchez**  
Williams Elementary School



**Vladimir Wells**  
Yosemite Middle School



**Jose Zalapa Negrete**  
School Leadership

**“At lunch, students can just come in and  
sit and it’s a safe place to build  
community and get to know them.”**

*Karalyn Ward*  
Teacher, Sequoia Middle School

# CERTIFICATED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



**Leanne Cervantes-Johnson**  
Career Technical Education



**Kris Gomez**  
Storey Elementary School



**Angelica Gonzalez**  
Butler  
Wawona K-8 School



**Anthony Her**  
Viking Elementary School



**Felipe Lemus**  
Aynesworth Elementary School



**Kanya Oul**  
Mayfair Elementary School



**Daniel Robles-Reyes**  
Winchell Elementary School



**Ashley Rollans Padilla**  
Easterby Elementary School



**Cesar Tiscareno**  
Calwa Elementary School



**Dong Vang**  
Lincoln Elementary School



## CERTIFICATED MIDDLE SCHOOL



**Monica Arechiga**  
Wawona K-8 School



**Aaron "AJ" Bassil**  
Computech Middle School



**Christine De La Cruz**  
Terronez Middle School



**Robert "Bob" Donat**  
Scandinavian Middle School



**Gao Lor**  
Sequoia Middle School



**Edward "Alex" Mertens**  
Baird Middle School



**Roderick Smith**  
Terronez Middle School



**Jena Van Well**  
Wawona K-8 School



**Karalyn Ward**  
Sequoia Middle School



**Douglas Wilkins**  
Baird Middle School

**"It's that culturally proficient lens that will add to our students' success and outcomes and in addition, to customer service."**

*Daniel Rodriguez*  
*Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*



# CERTIFICATED HIGH SCHOOL



**Tiffanie Alarcon**  
Bullard High School



**Terence Brown**  
Fresno High School



**Sandra Cloney**  
Design Science Middle College  
High School



**Amber Donat**  
Phoenix Secondary Academy



**Lamberto Heras**  
Sunnyside High School



**Jonathan Hinojosa**  
Farber Educational Campus



**Anjelica Orozco**  
Sunnyside High School



**Crystal Rodriguez**  
Design Science Middle College High  
School



**Curtis Sisk**  
Hoover High School



**Adam von Boltensern**  
Sunnyside High School





## ADMINISTRATORS



**Michael Allen**  
Roosevelt High School



**Laurinda Blanco**  
Edison High School



**Jeanne Butler**  
Rata School



**Meredith Farnsworth**  
Lawless Elementary School



**Summer Gaston-  
Gehris**  
King Elementary School



**Jessica Olsen**  
King Elementary School



**Jorge Ramirez**  
Ewing Elementary School



**David Ray**  
Roosevelt High School



**Lauren Trzeciak**  
Ayer Elementary School



**Natanaka Valtierra**  
Addams Elementary School

**“I like being the face of Wawona. I’m the first person you see when you come in, and I like being that person. I like to be the one to welcome people to our site and I want everybody that walks in the door to feel at home.”**

*Margaret Riedinger*  
*Office Manager, Wawona K-8 School*

## DEPARTMENT LEADERS



**Dr. Carlos Arredondo**  
Human Resources



**Dr. Javan Childs**  
Human Resources



**Dr. Zerina Hargrove-Brown**  
Analysis, Measurement and Accountability



**Amy Koehler**  
College and Career Readiness



**Veronica Ramos**  
LaVera Williams Center



**Damian Reyna**  
Expanded Learning Department



**Daniel Rodriguez**  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



**Mario Villarama**  
Operations



**Amanda Wright**  
Prevention and Intervention



**Jose Zavala**  
Prevention and Intervention

**“We know that students who are engaged  
have better outcomes.”**

*Leanne Cervantes-Johnson*  
*CTE Teacher on Special Assignment*

# *Special Thanks*

## **Fresno Unified Board of Education**

Valerie F. Davis, President

Veva Islas, Clerk

Claudia Cazares

Andy Levine

Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas

Keshia Thomas

Susan Wittrup

## **Interim Superintendent**

Misty Her

## **Communications Department**

### **Nominators**

### **Selection Panels**

*Thank you to our Sponsor*



Fresno Unified School District



[www.fresnounified.org](http://www.fresnounified.org)