



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Angel Mead

Phone: (760) 668-5037

Banning Unified School District Celebrates Employees at Annual Recognition and Retirement Ceremony

BANNING, CA — Banning Unified School District proudly hosted its annual Employee Recognition and Retirement Ceremony on Friday, April 11, 2025, at the Morongo Golf Club. This special event honored the dedication, service, and outstanding contributions of staff members from across the District.

The celebration was made possible by the Human Resources Department, which organized the evening to recognize employees whose efforts continue to make a lasting impact on students and the school community. The program began with a welcome from Dr. Tonia Causey-Bush, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, and included a Superintendent Reflection by Terrence Davis. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Johnny Baker also took part in the program, providing recognition remarks for employees reaching career milestones and entering retirement.

“We are incredibly proud of the people who make our District a thriving learning environment,” said Superintendent Terrence Davis. “Each of tonight’s honorees has played a unique and valuable role in the lives of our students and school communities. Their dedication, compassion, and professionalism exemplify the heart of public education.”

Following dinner, honorees from across the District were recognized for excellence in their roles, significant years of service, and their contributions over the course of their careers.

Contact Information:

Angel Mead, District & Community Relations Coordinator
O: 951.922.0200 ext: 104012 | E: amead@banning.k12.ca.us

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Classified Employees of the Year

Each of these individuals was selected by their school site for consistently demonstrating dedication, reliability, and a strong commitment to supporting students and staff.

- Elizabeth Carreon – Banning High School
- Erika Guzman – Coombs Alternative Education
- Michelle Salazar – Nicolet Middle School
- Monica Quinones Arias – Hoffer Elementary
- Kristen Reynolds – Hemmerling Elementary
- Guadalupe Garcia – Central Elementary
- Jennifer Ysiano – Cabazon Elementary
- Candy Thurmond – Florida Street Discovery Center

Certificated Employees of the Year

These educators have been honored by their peers for their excellence in instruction, positive influence on campus, and unwavering dedication to student growth and achievement.

- Erica Reyes – Banning High School
- Roman Aja – Coombs Alternative Education
- Michele Downard – Nicolet Middle School
- Annelise Cook – Hoffer Elementary
- Abilene Perez – Hemmerling Elementary
- Nora McFarland – Central Elementary
- Juanita Crews – Cabazon Elementary
- Rebecca Schwartz – Florida Street Discovery Center

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Educators of the Year

Recognized at the District level, these outstanding professionals have gone above and beyond in their roles, modeling leadership, innovation, and a deep commitment to educational excellence.

- Carolina Juarez – District Office Classified of the Year (Human Resources)
- Hugo Cortez – District Office Classified of the Year (Maintenance & Operations)
- Michelle Faulkner – Site Support of the Year (Student Services)
- Nancy Perez – Confidential Employee of the Year (Human Resources)
- Victor Herrera – Classified Administrator of the Year (Business Services)
- Matthew Beilstein – Counselor of the Year (Banning High School)
- Anna Torres – Certificated Administrator of the Year (Banning High School)
- Colette Burgess – Principal of the Year (Florida Street Discovery Center)

Years of Service Honorees

These employees have reached significant milestones in their careers, and their continued service is a testament to their loyalty and devotion to the students and families of Banning USD.

20 Years

- Veronica Patino-Saldana
- Nathan Valdivia
- Khanary Sath
- Alberto Tucker
- Eva Ryan

25 Years

- Matthew Beilstein
- Elizabeth Nouwels
- Lorena Ledesma

30 Years

- Bee Yang
- Hilda Scott

35 Years

- Febe Lorio

2025 Retirees

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Banning USD proudly honored this year's retirees for their years of service and lasting contributions to the District. These individuals have helped shape generations of students and leave behind a meaningful legacy.

- Gloria Davis – Food Service Worker, Central Elementary
- Lawrence Curry – Warehouse Person, Maintenance & Operations
- Paul Vaccarello – Maintenance Worker, Maintenance & Operations
- Joanne Lamas – Technician III, Fiscal Services
- Lorraine Lara – Yard Duty, Hemmerling Elementary
- Rosanna Martinez – Bilingual Instructional Aide, Central Elementary
- Frank Montano – School Security Officer, Nicolet Middle School
- Janelle Poulter – Counselor, Banning High School
- James Nakakihara – Teacher, Coombs Alternative Education
- Ronnie Stevens – Teacher, Hoffer Elementary
- Shannon Sheldon – Teacher, Hoffer Elementary
- Elizabeth Mayoitia – Teacher, Banning High School

Banning Unified School District extends its heartfelt congratulations and deepest gratitude to all honorees for their remarkable contributions. The District remains committed to celebrating those who make a difference every day in the lives of students, staff, and the greater community.

To view photos from the event, visit:

<https://banning-usd.smugmug.com/2024-2025/April-Events/Employee-Recognition-Dinner>

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About Banning Unified School District:

Banning Unified School District serves nearly 4,300 students across its schools and is one of the largest employers in the city of Banning, with over 500 dedicated staff members. The district's mission is to collaborate as a diverse community to develop responsible, respectful, and prepared students who achieve their full potential. Guided by its vision to prepare, inspire, and educate, Banning USD is committed to fostering a supportive environment where students can thrive academically and personally.

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(Photos have been attached)



PHOTO CAPTION: Employees and retirees were recognized at the Annual Recognition and Retirement Ceremony.

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PHOTO CAPTION: Dr. Tonia Causey-Bush, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services welcomes all guest in attendance.

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PHOTO CAPTION: Central Elementary School staff came together for a team photo.

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