



## **For Immediate Release**

1401 W. Valencia Drive  
Fullerton, CA 92833  
714-447-7480

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### ***Maple School Teacher Awarded Region 11 California League of Educators Elementary Teacher of the Year***

*(Fullerton, CA)* – Amy Chung, teacher at Maple School, was awarded the Region 11 California League of Educators Elementary Teacher of the Year. Ms. Chung was nominated for her devotion and dedication to her students and her ability to make a difference.

This award is granted to a teacher who exemplifies educational excellence and has made significant efforts to implement elements of educational reform. The California League of Educators Educator of the Year award is given annually to California elementary, middle, and high school educators who exemplify educational excellence. As the nominee selected to represent Region 11, which includes Los Angeles and Orange Counties, Ms. Chung was honored at the California League of Educators Conference held in Monterey, California earlier this month. At this conference, Ms. Chung was honored as the California League of Educators Elementary Teacher of the Year.

To nab the top spot for Region 11, Ms. Chung shared the most important lesson for her as an educator for over 14 years. Ms. Chung spoke about the most important lesson from her students is, “the power of being seen and represented is immeasurably impactful.” Ms. Chung spoke about her experiences as a child and the jabs she received about her eyes, name, and foods she ate. She took these experiences and integrated them into her lessons as an educator, striving to make sure that all students are seen. At a Title 1 school, Ms. Chung expressed her appreciation for Maple School Principal, Anthony Abney, for highlighting the positive contributions to the success of this country.

In addition to recognizing other cultures, Ms. Chung has shared her Asian American culture with students. This included sharing of a showcase of books highlighting Asian culture as well as working with the parents at Maple School to bring in lion dancers and a dragon to celebrate Lunar New Year allowing students to experience the vibrance of the culture. The excitement and energy shared by the students through this experience brought a fullness in her heart that can’t be expressed in words. Ms. Chung states that, “cultural shifts can happen, and they can happen within one generation.” Ms. Chung believes that being represented and seen develops a pride in students within gives them the capacity to

celebrate and empathize with others. Adds Mr. Abney, “Ms. Chung embodies Maple’s values of high expectations, cultural significance and representation, and high quality/caring teaching. All of her students and colleagues love her, because she develops strong relationships and approaches all she does with her full heart. We are very proud of her accomplishment!”

The Fullerton School District is located in northern Orange County, California and serves over 11,600 students in grades TK – 8<sup>th</sup>. The Fullerton School District includes 21 schools, 15 elementary schools, two K-8<sup>th</sup> grade schools, three middle schools, and a distance learning and home school model. The mission of the Fullerton School District is to work collaboratively with the community to provide an innovative, high-quality educational program for all students in a safe learning environment. The District motto, “*Great Schools - Successful Kids*” exemplifies the belief that all students will achieve academic excellence, acquire interpersonal skills, and develop technological expertise to contribute as productive citizens in a democratic society. For more information, call 714/447-7400 or visit [www.fullertonsd.org](http://www.fullertonsd.org).

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*For more information, please feel free to contact Dr. Chad Hammitt/Associate Superintendent of Personnel at 714/447-7450*