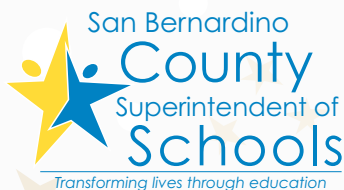
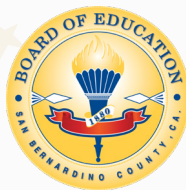


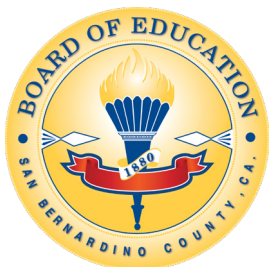


San Bernardino County
Superintendent of Schools

Stars
in
Education
Celebration

September 3, 2025





San Bernardino County Board of Education

Dr. Gwendolyn Dowdy-Rodgers, President
Trustee Area D

Ryan McEachron, Vice President
Trustee Area A

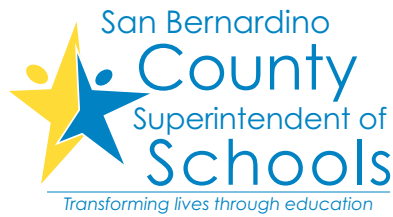
Andrea De Leon
Trustee Area E

Rita Fernandez-Loof
Trustee Area B

Laura A. Mancha
Trustee Area C

Mission Statement

Impacting our community through
education, accountability and opportunity.



Mission Statement

The mission of San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools is to transform lives through education. Working in collaboration with school districts, families, community partners and other agencies, we provide leadership, advocacy and services to ensure equitable, innovative and inspiring educational practices. This endeavor is essential to the quality of life and economic vitality of our communities.

Message from the County Superintendent



Welcome to San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS) Stars in Education Awards Ceremony.

We are honored to gather today in celebration of exceptional educators, staff members and lifelong learners who have dedicated their careers to transforming lives through education. Each recipient has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to uplifting San Bernardino County's most vulnerable students.

The educators we honor today exemplify the values of compassion, resilience and excellence. Their efforts not only support student achievement but also inspire a culture of hope and possibility.

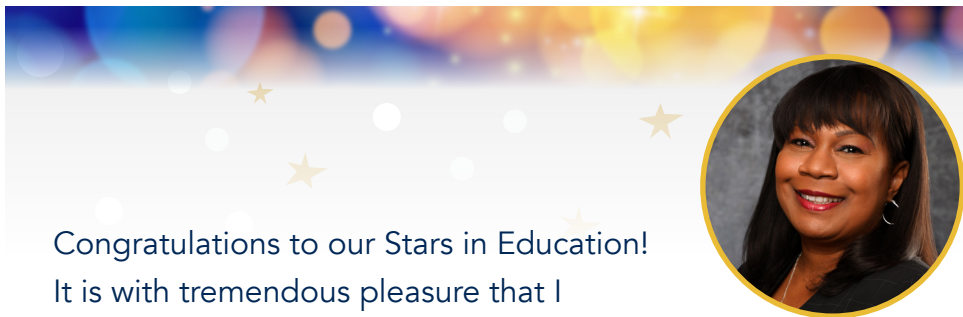
Thank you to the SBCSS Student Services and Human Resources branches for making this celebration possible.

On behalf of SBCSS, we extend our sincere gratitude to this year's recipients for their dedication, passion and service. Your work is vital to the success and well-being of our students, and we are proud to honor you today.

Congratulations to all of this year's awardees!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Alejandre". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ted Alejandre
County Superintendent



Congratulations to our Stars in Education!

It is with tremendous pleasure that I recognize and celebrate our outstanding Teachers of the Year. Your dedication, passion and unwavering commitment have elevated our students' success. You are remarkable educators who have truly made a profound difference in the lives of our students and the entire SBCSS community. Your extraordinary abilities ignite curiosity, foster a love for learning, and empower our students to embrace their full potential, in the classroom and beyond.

It is with great pride that I also recognize the Classified School Employees of the Year. Your dedication and positive impact on our school community have not gone unnoticed. Whether it's supporting students in the classroom or going the extra mile to ensure a safe and nurturing environment, you consistently embody excellence.

I also extend hearty congratulations to our Teachers for Tomorrow. Your decision to pursue a teaching career is both courageous and inspiring. We could not be more delighted to support you in your journey of encouraging young minds and shaping the future.

Once again, congratulations to our Stars in Education. May your passion for education light the way and guide you to endless fulfillment and joy in this notable profession.

Myrlene Pierre

Assistant Superintendent
Student Services

Good afternoon! It is an honor to recognize our SBCSS educators, "Celebrating Excellence: Teachers of the Year, Classified School Employees of the Year and Teachers for Tomorrow." This occasion allows us to recognize our outstanding educators' exceptional efforts and unwavering commitment to shaping young minds and molding the future.



Educators, the tireless investment of your time, effort, energy, passion and wealth of experience is invaluable. You are the cornerstone and lifeblood of our educational system, playing a pivotal role in preparing the next generation of San Bernardino community members. To our esteemed Teachers of the Year, Classified School Employees of the Year and Teachers for Tomorrow, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the honorees and express my deepest gratitude to each of you for your invaluable contributions to the lives of our students. May this celebration serve as a testament to your profound impact and may it inspire us all to strive for excellence as we transform lives through education.

Respectfully,

Suzanne Hernandez
Dr. Suzanne Hernandez
Assistant Superintendent
Human Resources



San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools

Stars
in
Education
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September 3, 2025

Welcome

Acknowledgements

Teachers of the Year

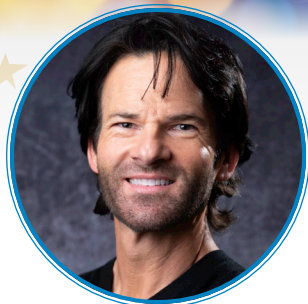
Classified School Employees of the Year

Teachers for Tomorrow

Grow Within

Closing

Teacher of the Year



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Todd Broaddus

Todd Broaddus is a special education teacher at Los Osos High School, where he has served students with severe disabilities for more than 20 years. Known for his kindness, reliability and strong leadership, Todd creates a classroom that is structured, inclusive and respectful of each student's needs.

He leads with high expectations, engaging students through personalized instruction, consistent routines and adaptive equipment such as Hoyer lifts, standers and gait trainers. His classroom is a model of collaboration, where paraeducators, nurses and specialists work seamlessly under his guidance.

Todd builds lasting relationships with students, families and colleagues—often staying connected long after students graduate. His support extends beyond the classroom through home and hospital visits and even speaking at former students' memorials.

He is a respected leader on campus, known for his open-door classroom policy and welcoming presence. Todd's dedication and heart-centered teaching make him a pillar of his school community.

Teacher of the Year



ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Kimberly Nancarrow

Kimberly Nancarrow is a dual-credentialed educator at Victorville Education Center, where she teaches grades 9–12 in the Alternative Education program. With more than eight years of service, Kimberly is known for her inclusive teaching practices, strong work ethic and commitment to student growth.

She creates a dynamic classroom environment through differentiated instruction, collaborative learning and personalized feedback. Her lessons challenge students while honoring their individual learning styles, and she fosters a culture of respect and resilience.

Beyond the classroom, Kimberly is a trusted mentor and leader. She supports colleagues with Individualized Education Plan compliance, models effective instruction and steps into leadership roles when needed. Her relationships with students and families are built on open communication and a genuine desire to help every learner succeed.

Her students describe her as inspiring and transformative—an educator who not only teaches but uplifts. Kimberly's passion, professionalism and impact make her an exceptional awardee.

Teacher of the Year



STATE PRESCHOOL

Cynthia Ruiz

Cynthia Ruiz is a preschool teacher at Frost County Early Education Center, serving in the State Preschool program with more than eight years of experience. Known for her nurturing spirit, creativity and inclusive approach, Cynthia creates a classroom where every child feels seen, supported and inspired.

She integrates tools like Footsteps2Brilliance, Creative Curriculum and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, to deliver engaging instruction tailored to each student's needs. Cynthia designs her classroom with intention—creating an environment that fosters academic and social-emotional development. Her use of matched affect, open-ended questions and positive reinforcement cultivates curiosity and resilience.

Beyond the classroom, Cynthia is a collaborative leader who supports colleagues through resource sharing, training and advocacy. She actively pursues professional growth, attending workshops and conferences to enhance her practice and share insights with peers.

Cynthia's innovation and commitment to early childhood education make her a standout nominee for this recognition and a beloved figure in her school community.

Teacher of the Year



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Jackie Abney

Jackie Abney is the SBCSS Teacher of the Year. She is a passionate and innovative speech-language pathologist with more than 20 years of experience serving students through Desert/Mountain Operations. Known for her creativity, dedication and student-centered approach, Jackie integrates speech and language goals into daily instruction, enhancing both academic and life skills.

She personalizes learning through specialized language books, visual supports and hands-on activities that promote expressive communication, reading fluency and comprehension. Whether guiding students through community-based instruction or preparing them for events like prom, Jackie ensures every experience is meaningful.

She also leads staff development, providing group and individualized training to improve the use of communication devices and supports inclusive practices. Her collaboration with teachers is rooted in respect for each student's learning style and needs.

Jackie's expertise, compassion and commitment make her a standout recipient for this recognition.

Classified School Employee *of the Year*



**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Helen Card

Helen Card is a paraeducator at Barbara Phelps County Community School, where she has supported students in Alternative Education for more than 25 years. Known for her reliability, compassion and dedication, Helen plays a key role in meeting the academic and behavioral needs of her students.

She contributes to instruction through platforms like Google Classroom and Subject.com, assists with Individualized Education Program implementation and ensures English learners are supported. Her personalized approach helps students feel supported, while her collaboration with staff promotes a cohesive learning environment.

Helen builds strong relationships with students and families by attending school events and offering guidance with empathy and respect. She supports graduation planning, reviews transcripts and helps students stay on track. Her consistency and care have made her a trusted presence on campus.

Her commitment to professional growth and her impact on at-risk youth, make her a remarkable honoree.

Classified School Employee *of the Year*



**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Tracey Castillo

Tracey Castillo is a technician supporting the Independent Study Program at the Sunwest Building, where she has served with excellence for five years. Known for her organization, initiative and attention to detail, Tracey ensures the program operates efficiently and effectively.

She manages scheduling, recordkeeping and interdepartmental communication with precision. Her ability to resolve issues independently has made her an essential resource to both staff and students. Tracey also coordinates access to technology and learning tools, helping ensure students have what they need to succeed.

Beyond her technical skills, Tracey fosters a collaborative and welcoming work environment. She mentors new staff, supports colleagues and contributes to process improvements that enhance productivity. Her open communication and proactive mindset have strengthened the culture of the Independent Study Program.

Tracey's pursuit of professional development and her commitment to service make her a deserving honoree for this recognition and a valued member of the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools team.

Teacher for Tomorrow



Maricela Armenta

Maricela Armenta is an SBCSS Braille Specialist at Gerald Smith Elementary. As a Classified Employee Grant (CEG) participant, Maricela brings over a decade of experience supporting students by creating a warm, structured environment that promotes independence, confidence and academic growth. She champions accessibility and individualized instruction, using adaptive technology and differentiated strategies to meet each student's unique needs.

Maricela ensures that all learners can engage meaningfully with the curriculum and develop essential life skills. She collaborates with classroom teachers, families and support staff to build stabilized learning communities. She also mentors colleagues and contributes to site-based initiatives that support student success.

Known for her compassion and reliability, Maricela is a trusted advocate for students and a valued member of her school team. Her dedication towards accessible education and ability to empower students through specialized support make her a powerful voice for education in her community.

Teacher for Tomorrow



Itzel Castillo

Itzel Castillo is a dedicated SBCSS paraeducator at Mulberry Early Education Center, where she supports an intensive preschool program for students with autism. With over 17 years of experience, she has worked with students across grade levels—from preschool to high school—and with a wide range of disabilities.

Itzel is a CEG and Teacher Residency Grant participant, where she has decided to further her service to education and pursue new learning opportunities. She is known for her nurturing presence, instructional support and ability to foster independence in her students. When children first enter the classroom, many are eager to learn new skills, and Itzel takes pride in helping them grow confident and capable through daily routines and personalized instruction.

Her work includes developing individualized curriculum, implementing behavioral strategies and promoting language, social and life skills. Itzel's professionalism, adaptability and positive attitude make her a trusted collaborator and a powerful influence in the lives of her students.

Teacher for Tomorrow



Keenia Gaines

Keenia Gaines is an SBCSS paraeducator at Dorothy Gibson County High School. In her role, Keenia works closely with students in one-on-one settings, offering academic support and emotional encouragement. Her presence is a steady source of motivation, especially for students navigating personal challenges.

Keenia loves interacting with students and brings warmth and positivity to every exchange. Her ability to adapt—whether in the classroom, during transitions or in support roles—makes her an asset across campus. She's known for stepping in with confidence and care, always focused on helping students feel seen and supported.

Keenia's approachable nature and unwavering devotion to student success make her a trusted ally in the classroom. She uplifts those around her with empathy, patience and a deep understanding of individual needs. As a CEG participant, Keenia continues to grow professionally while making a meaningful impact on campus.

Teacher for Tomorrow



Rosita Gomez

Rosita Gomez is an SBCSS paraeducator at Joshua Circle Elementary, where she has been serving in a special education setting since 2019. As a CEG participant, Rosita brings a strong commitment to inclusive practices and supports instructional delivery by assisting teachers with lesson plans, activities and supplemental materials tailored to diverse student learning.

She plays a crucial role in monitoring student behavior, responding to individual needs and implementing behavior and intervention strategies. Rosita keeps detailed records of student progress and collaborates closely with educators and staff to ensure effective communication in the classroom.

Her responsibilities also include helping students with academic, behavioral and physical needs throughout the school day. Whether supporting transitions, reinforcing instruction or assisting with mobility and self-care, Rosita's presence contributes to a safe and nurturing learning environment.

Rosita's devotion to barrier-free education makes her a valued member of her school community.

Teacher for Tomorrow



Christin Ibrahim

Christin Ibrahim is an SBCSS paraeducator at Apple Valley Early Education Center, where she supports special education students with empathy, consistency and collaboration. As a CEG participant, Christin brings two years of experience and is recognized for her strong communication skills and ability to build meaningful relationships with students, families and colleagues.

She excels in both small and large group settings, supporting teachers with creative, thoughtful lesson planning. Christin provides additional support for students with special needs by offering pre-teaching instruction, reinforcing classroom lessons and promoting positive peer interactions and social-emotional development.

Her colleagues praise her reliability and positive demeanor—even in challenging situations. She contributes to a positive school culture by modeling respect, structure and encouragement, and helps foster inclusivity and a sense of belonging for all students.

Christin's focus on equitable learning environments, empowers students to engage and participate in classroom activities.

Teacher for Tomorrow



Courtney Olivieri

Courtney Olivieri is a paraeducator at Lucerne Valley High School, where she supports students with diverse needs. With over four years of experience, Courtney brings a blend of adaptability, empathy and professionalism to her role in special education. She is a CEG and Teacher Residency Grant participant, currently pursuing her teaching credential at Claremont Graduate University.

Courtney is known for her classroom management, collaborative spirit and ability to build meaningful relationships with students, families and colleagues. Her versatility allows her to support a wide range of learners, and her energetic, caring nature makes her a valued team member. She contributes to lesson planning, reinforces instruction and promotes positive peer interactions and social-emotional development.

Beyond her professional role, Courtney is recognized for her nurturing presence and deep empathy—qualities that enrich her work with students. Her commitment to prioritizing holistic development makes her a promising future leader in special education.

Teacher for Tomorrow



Kaya Scroggins

Kaya Scroggins is an SBCSS paraeducator at Live Oak Early Education Center, where she supports a specialized preschool program for students with a wide range of disabilities. With over four years of experience, Kaya is a CEG participant recognized for her instructional creativity, classroom leadership and steadfastness towards inclusive education.

She regularly leads group sessions, contributes to lesson planning and adapts materials to meet individual needs. Her background in sign language enhances communication and accessibility in the classroom, helping students engage more fully in their learning environment.

Kaya is a collaborative team player who consistently goes above and beyond—arriving early, staying late and always seeking ways to improve student outcomes. Her strong work ethic and passion for all students, make her a respected and trusted member of the school community.

Kaya's goal of becoming a teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing reflects her deep commitment to educational equity and student empowerment.

Teacher for Tomorrow



Yvette Sisco

Yvette Sisco is an SBCSS paraeducator at Melva Davis Academy of Excellence, where she supports students with severe disabilities. As a CEG participant, with over six years of experience, she has faced students' complex needs with empathy, creativity and consistency.

Yvette contributes meaningfully to classroom instruction by implementing individualized strategies that enhance learning and reduce behavioral barriers. Her collaborative spirit and open communication make her a valued member of the instructional team. She brings thoughtful insight and a solutions-oriented mindset to every challenge, always prioritizing student growth and engagement.

Beyond the classroom, Yvette is a long-standing volunteer with Panthers Pride PTO at Park View Preparatory, demonstrating her commitment to community involvement and family partnerships. Her work ethic, warmth and problem-solving skills have left a lasting impact on students, staff and families alike.

Yvette's passion for special education and her diligence towards student development make her a promising future educator.

Teacher for Tomorrow



Jessica Whisenant

Jessica Whisenant is an SBCSS paraeducator at Live Oak Early Education Center, where she supports a preschool special education classroom. With more than a decade of experience, Jessica is known for her warmth, structured classroom management and commitment to student development.

She encourages mutual respect and engagement through strong classroom management and thoughtful instructional support. Her creativity, reliability and collaborative spirit make her a trusted partner in lesson planning and classroom activities.

Jessica leads by example, demonstrating flexibility and a commitment to celebrating every learner. Her colleagues describe her as enthusiastic, nurturing and dependable. All qualities that make her a remarkable educator.

Jessica consistently leverages her interpersonal skills to build strong, productive relationships with staff, students and families, enhancing the collaborative culture of her learning community. Her innovative ideas and proactive participation in developing adaptive learning strategies significantly contribute to her classroom's success in meeting student needs. Jessica is a true embodiment of dedication and passion in early childhood special education.

Teacher Residency Grant



Jenel Bracamontes

Jenel Bracamontes is in her first year of teaching at Rancho Verde Elementary and has served as a paraeducator since 2018. As a CEG participant, Jenel has supported students with a wide range of disabilities, particularly those with emotional disturbance. She is known for building strong relationships and creating supportive environments that foster student growth and independence.

Jenel was awarded the Teacher Residency Grant, through which she earned her master's degree in education and is completing requirements for a preliminary credential in extensive support needs.

Throughout her time with SBCSS, Jenel has demonstrated compassion, consistency and a student-centered mindset. She brings a calm presence and thoughtful approach to every classroom interaction, helping students feel safe, empowered and ready to learn.

SBCSS Mentor Teacher Karina McLane praises her resilience, reliability and perseverance towards becoming a credentialed special education teacher.

Teacher Residency Grant



Phyllis Clasen

Phyllis Clasen is in her first year of teaching at North Shore Elementary and has served as a paraeducator since 2022. As a CEG participant, Phyllis is known for her creativity, patience and attention to detail—qualities that strengthen her classroom team and foster a supportive learning environment. Her calm presence and commitment to student success have a positive impact on the school community she serves.

She was awarded the Teacher Residency Grant, through which she is completing a master's degree in education and the requirements for a preliminary credential in extensive support needs.

Phyllis consistently demonstrates reliability, compassion and a student-centered approach in her work. She builds meaningful relationships with students and colleagues, contributing to a positive and nurturing classroom culture.

SBCSS Teacher Mentor Judy Baudoux praises her determination, dedication and care as Phyllis advances toward becoming a credentialed special education teacher.

Grow Within Impact: Early Wins, Long-Term Potential



4

Preliminary
Credentials Earned



9

Bachelor's
Degrees Completed



23

Participants
on Track for
Bachelor's Degree



33

On Track for
Preliminary Credentials



18

Teachers
Employed

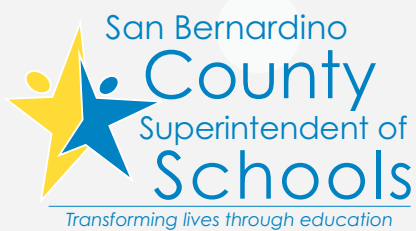
\$767K

Awarded in
Grant Support

Transforming lives through education



Congratulations
to all recipients for
transforming lives
through education!



View event photos by scanning
the QR code or visiting
<https://bit.ly/3TeO1zL>

Photos will be available in 48 hours.