

YEP!

Youth Enrichment Program

Play, Learn, Create, Explore, Grow.

2024-2025

I Make a Difference Award



Made in Hayward

*The Place to Be After
3!*

*September 2024 -
May 2025*

YEP's I Make a Difference Award

The I Make a Difference Award recognizes YEP staff who demonstrate exemplary work in action, creating quality experiences for students in YEP Expanded Learning spaces.

- This recognition is grounded in the [Quality Standards for Expanded Learning Programs](#) established by the California Department of Education.
 - Please explain in detail why you are nominating the staff member or site and how they meet the quality standards in detail and show with examples.
- Each month, from September to May, YEP Management will review the nominations and select an Operations Supervisor, Site Coordinator, Program Leader, or site team to be recognized for the award.



Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Clear vision, mission, and purpose



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I Make A Difference Award September 2024

STEPHANIE ALCARAZ GALLEGOS

YEP Site Coordinator
Lorin Eden Elementary School



Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Clear vision, mission and purpose

Her exceptional hard work, positive energy, and visionary leadership make her an outstanding candidate for this honor. Ms. A's dedication to Lorin Eden is evident in her work. She consistently goes above and beyond, putting in the extra effort needed to ensure success in the program. Her positive energy is contagious, inspiring YEP program leaders, students, and Lorin Eden staff.



<https://www.husd.us/yep>



Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Active and engaged learning



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I Make A Difference Award September 2024

JOSSELYN GARCIA

YEP Operations Supervisor
East Ave. Elementary School

Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:
Active and engaged learning

Josselyn is very active within YEP. Her influence is seen throughout the program. Josselyn has led the curriculum team for YEP intersession programs, planned special events and field trips for over 1000 students over the summer, helped plan Youth Advisory Committee events, and more. She has a strong invested interest in the education and growth of the students she interacts with while going the extra mile for them and her staff.



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Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Active and engaged learning



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I Make A Difference Award September 2024

BREANNA MENDOZA

YEP Program Leader
Park Elementary School



Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:
Active and engaged learning

Ms. Breanna is an excellent leader in teaching the 2nd & 3rd graders. Her classroom is a safe space for many YEP students. Breanna is bilingual, and she helps her staff learn Spanish to communicate better with their bilingual students and parents. Ms. Breanna is organized and inclusive, sharing her culture with many and growing with the established Park community.



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Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Clear vision, mission, and purpose



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I Make A Difference Award October 2024

BRIANA HELLNER

YEP Operations Supervisor
Eldridge Elementary School

Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:
Clear vision, mission and purpose

Briana has shown tremendous growth in her new role, positively impacting her program in such a quick turnaround. She has dedicated countless hours to bringing her community together, advocating for her students, staff, and program, which has elevated the program and brought joy and excitement to her students. She is a go-getter and provides creativity in her work, and her program highlights all of her students collectively and individually.



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Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Clear vision, mission, and purpose



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I Make A Difference Award

October 2024

AILEEN MUNOZ

YEP Program Leader

East Ave. Elementary School

Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Clear vision, mission and purpose

Aileen has shown so much growth and has continued to show tremendous potential. She has created active and engaging activities for her students and the program. She brings joy, fun, and excitement when working with her students. Aileen understands what a team leader is and brings new ideas daily to ensure a fun and safe environment, from sight word friendship bracelets, karaoke days, glow-in-the-dark dances, and teaching them a new language.



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Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Safe and supportive environment



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I Make A Difference Award November 2024 NATALIA NAVARRO

YEP Program Leader
Cesar Chavez Middle School



Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:
Safe and supportive environment

She always shows up for her students and gives them daily support. Last week, a student confided in Natalia that she needed help, and Natalia was there for her when she felt like no one else was. Natalia creates a safe and supportive space for our Chavez YEP students. She consistently ensures that she checks in with those needing general support, even if it means giving advice or simply asking how they are doing.



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Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Quality staff



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I Make A Difference Award November 2024 ALVARO GONSALEZ

YEP Program Leader
Ruus Elementary School



Quality Standard for Expanded Learning: Quality Staff

Alvaro demonstrates a lot of flexibility and wears many hats within the program. For example, he helps train new hires, runs the AM program, knows the ins and outs of PM sign-outs, coaches America scores, and supports the site lead with significant YEP events, such as Enrollment Week. Additionally, he is a great team player, always willing to collaborate and assist where needed.



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Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Active and engaged learning



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I Make A Difference Award

December 2024

NYLAH HINES

YEP Program Leader
Park Elementary School



Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:
Active and engaged learning

Nylah's passion for youth development is evident in every aspect of her leadership. She approaches each day with boundless energy and enthusiasm, creating a space where students feel seen, heard, and valued. Her ability to build meaningful connections with students encourages them to take ownership of their learning journeys. Through interactive activities, thoughtful discussions, and creative problem-solving exercises, Nylah ensures every student's voice is uplifted and respected.



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Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Skill building



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I Make A Difference Award December 2024

MELINDA WILLIAMS

YEP Program Leader
Lorin Eden Elementary School

Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:
Skill building

Ms. Melinda's commitment to creating a nurturing and empowering environment shines through in all she does. Known as the "Kinder Whisperer" for her remarkable ability to connect with young learners, she now inspires older students by empowering their voices and ensuring every child feels heard and valued. Her impact extends far beyond the classroom, whether arriving early for morning programming or staying late to plan events.



<https://www.husd.us/yep>





Dec 2024



Dec 2024



Sept 2024



Sept 2024



Sept 2024



Oct 2024

I Make A Difference Award 24/25

The I Make a Difference Award recognizes YEP staff who demonstrate exemplary work in action, creating quality experiences for students in YEP Expanded Learning spaces.



Nov 2024



Nov 2024

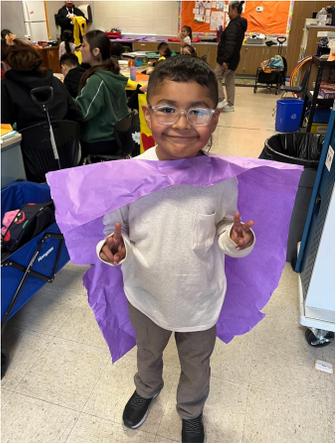


Oct 2024

Thank you & Congratulations!
"It takes a big heart to shape little minds"

Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Safe and supportive environment



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I Make A Difference Award

January 2025

ADRIENNE ELY

YEP Site Coordinator

Longwood Elementary School

Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Safe and supportive environment

Ms. Ely goes above and beyond to support her YEP students and their families. She dedicates a great deal of herself to her students and the program, and as a result of her support, many students and families have gained access to valuable resources that help them thrive. Ms. Ely is highly respected and appreciated at our site. She is communicative and consistently follows through, working closely with teachers to ensure students have the best opportunities for achievement.



<https://www.husd.us/yep>



Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Active and engaged learning



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I Make A Difference Award January 2025

ARELI VALENZUELA

YEP Program Leader
Ruus Elementary School

Quality Standard for Expanded Learning: Active and engaged learning

Areli creates strong, comfortable, and safe bonds with students through her genuine care and concern for their well-being and safety. Areli listens sympathetically to our students, validates their feelings, and handles conflicts with grace. During activities, she fosters a safe space in her classroom where students feel free to express themselves, thanks to her emphasis on positive feedback and celebration of individual qualities.



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Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Clear vision and mission



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I Make A Difference Award

January 2025

BUICK TUUA

YEP Operations Supervisor
Park Elementary School



Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Clear vision and mission

As the Operations Supervisor, Mr. Buick embodies far more than just a title—he goes above and beyond to ensure that every student who enters the program sees it as a fresh start to their day. His authenticity shines through in the way he checks in daily, making sure that staff are prepared to provide students with what they deserve. His commitment to excellence, along with his authentic and approachable nature, makes him an irreplaceable asset to the YEP program and beyond.



<https://www.husd.us/yep>



Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Youth voice and leadership



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I Make A Difference Award February 2025

ANNA ULLOA

YEP Program Leader
Cesar Chavez Middle School



Quality Standard for Expanded Learning: Youth voice and leadership

Ana is incredibly involved and always takes initiative in YAC. When another school site didn't have a PL at the YAC Saturday training, Ana stepped in and worked with both her group and the other school's group to go over the training. In her own school's YAC meetings, she keeps everyone engaged by asking thoughtful questions and ensuring her group has a strong voice in shaping their project.



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Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Safe and supportive environment



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I Make A Difference Award February 2025

OSVALDO MARQUEZ

YEP Program Leader
Southgate Elementary School

Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:
Safe and supportive environment

Oswaldo has created a safe and welcoming environment for his 2nd-grade students and America Scores participants at Southgate. He has dedicated himself to building meaningful relationships with each of his students, always prioritizing their emotional well-being. Through his ongoing efforts, he continues to strengthen the emotional bonds he shares with the students, creating a positive and nurturing space where they can grow and thrive.



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Jan 2025



Jan 2025



Jan 2025



Feb 2025

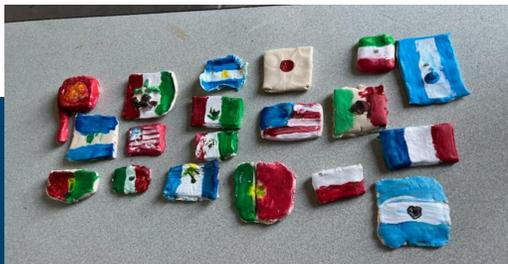


Feb 2025

Thank you &
Congratulations!
*What you do makes a
difference, and you have to
decide what kind of difference
you want to make"*

Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Active and engaged learning



Hayward

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I Make A Difference Award March 2025

ADAMARIZ ISLAS OLMOS

YEP Program Leader
Longwood Elementary School

Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Active and engaged learning

Ms. Adamariz has been engaging students in a variety of creative and enriching activities. Recently, she introduced solar ovens for making chocolate s'mores, and guided the class in crafting glow-in-the-dark friendship bracelets. She is also incorporating children's literature into her lessons and is planning an exciting rock salt candy-making activity for Science Week. Her classroom is a dynamic and joyful environment where students are constantly creating, exploring, and enjoying their learning experiences.

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Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Active and engaged learning



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I Make A Difference Award

March 2025

ARELI GARCIA

YEP Program Leader

Palma Ceia Elementary School

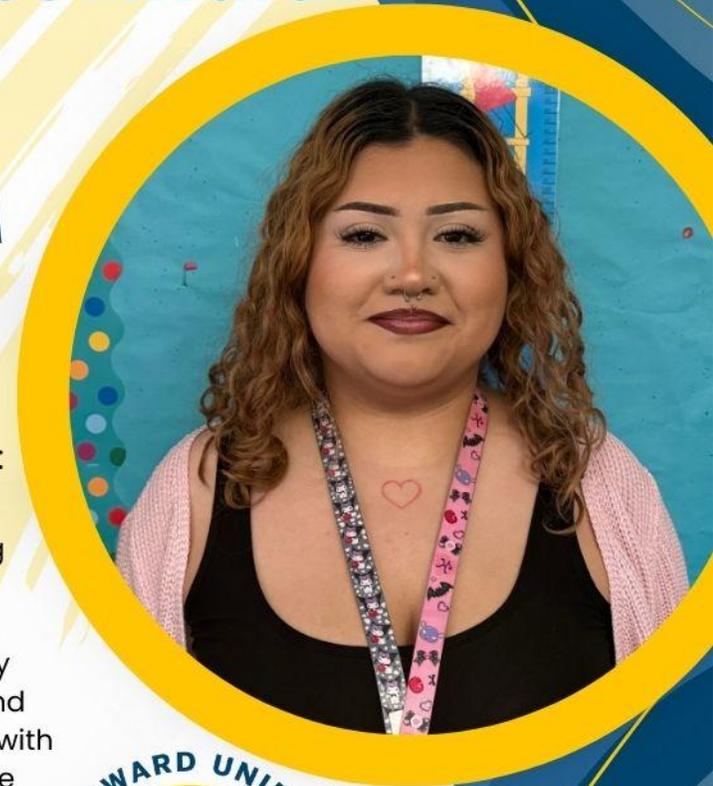
Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Active and engaged learning

Areli comes to work each day with unwavering dedication and a heart full of intention. She consistently pours into her students with care, creativity, and thoughtfulness. She consistently pours into her students with care, creativity, and thoughtfulness. Her classroom is always filled with energy, laughter, and learning. The children are genuinely excited to be in her class, and it's clear that she creates a space where they feel safe, seen, and inspired. Her passion for both teaching and mentoring shines through in everything she does, making her an invaluable part of our team.



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Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Quality staff



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I Make A Difference Award March 2025 ALEXANDREA AVALOS

YEP Program Leader
Hayward High School

Quality Standard for Expanded Learning: Quality staff

Alexandrea Avalos has quickly established herself as a valuable and dedicated member of the Hayward High School team during her first full school year. She has taken the initiative to develop and lead engaging extracurricular programs, including the Baking Club and Travel Club. Ms. Avalos fosters a positive and inclusive environment, where students are consistently enthusiastic and actively involved in the activities she facilitates. They are always excited to see her, and she has built meaningful connections that support both their social and emotional growth.

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March 2025



March 2025



March 2025

Thank you &
Congratulations!
“In afterschool, I learned
that not everyone can do
everything, but everyone can
do something”
- Willany S.
Afterschool Youth Ambassador
% of 2024

Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Quality Staff



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I Make A Difference Award April 2025

MICHELLE FLORES
"MS. ALEJANDRA"

YEP Program Leader
Southgate Elementary School

Quality Standard for Expanded Learning: Quality staff

Michelle, affectionately known by students as Ms. Alejandra, has grown into an exceptional program leader. A former YP, she has transformed her experience from previous sites into engaging activities and meaningful enrichment for her group. Leading the morning program, she is a consistent and dependable presence for students, fostering strong bonds and creating a positive environment. Her connections extend beyond her 4th graders to students across the YEP Southgate community, and she continues to demonstrate reliability, adaptability, and growth in every circumstance.



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Made



Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Program Management



I Make A Difference Award

April 2025

JACOB RUENZ

YEP Site Coordinator
Ruus Elementary School

Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:
Program Management

Mr. R successfully managed the entire school year independently for the first time, overseeing both a full team and the program. He overcame obstacles and staff-related challenges with determination and demonstrated a strong ability to apply feedback, using it to enhance the program and effectively meet expectations.

<https://www.husd.us/yep>

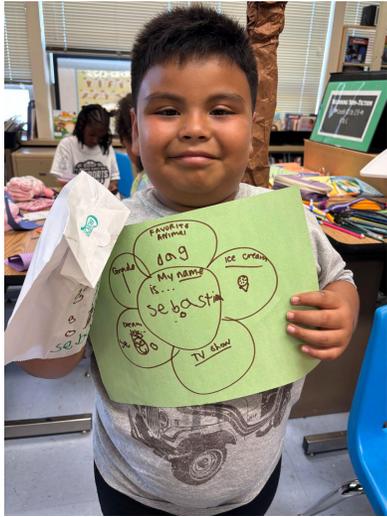


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Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Active and engaged learning



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I Make A Difference Award May 2025

ANDREA CHAVEZ GUTIERREZ

YEP Program Leader
Park Elementary School



Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:
Active & engaged learning

Andrea consistently goes above and beyond in bringing arts and crafts to life for her students, creating engaging, hands-on projects that inspire imagination and joy. Her leadership shone during the recent Art Wall Contest, where she guided and motivated Youth Professionals to collaborate, innovate, and showcase their talents. Andrea's passion, dedication, and artistic vision make her a true standout in the Park Elementary program.



<https://www.husd.us/yep>



Made i



Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:

Clear vision, mission, and purpose



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I Make A Difference Award May 2025

ANDREA DE LA PENA

YEP Operations Supervisor
Glassbrook Elementary School

Quality Standard for Expanded Learning:
Clear vision, mission, and purpose

She is an incredible source of support for the staff at our site, with an understanding and comforting personality that inspires creativity and fosters growth. Her compassion and patience with both students and staff have made a lasting impact, helping shape others into stronger leaders. She is a valuable asset to our program, demonstrating exceptional leadership and embodying every quality standard. Her dedication makes it a privilege to be part of our site, and she is truly deserving of every award and recognition.



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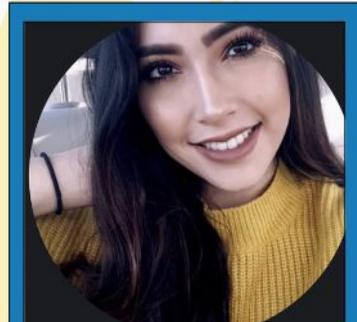
April 2025



April 2025



May 2025



May 2025

Thank you & Congratulations!

“In afterschool, I learned that not everyone can do everything, but everyone can do something”

- Willany S.

Afterschool Youth Ambassador

% of 2024