

Ontario-Montclair School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Models of Excellence to be Recognized by Board of Trustees

The Ontario-Montclair School District is holding its annual "Excellence Campaign." This celebration will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2016, by the Ontario-Montclair School District in a collaborative effort with Dr. Louie F. Rodriguez, a Harvard-trained education researcher and associate professor at California State University, San Bernardino. The idea of Excellence Campaigns was born out of Dr. Rodriguez's The PRAXIS Project, a school/community-based effort aimed at promoting educational excellence in schools and communities. Dr. James Q. Hammond, Superintendent of the Ontario-Montclair School District, stated that "Our Excellence Campaign is a celebration of Ontario-Montclair School District alumni who are serving as models of excellence for our students by giving back to the community through their service."

The District believes that "paying it forward" is an example of excellence in the district. Through the nomination process, the selection committee identified OMSD alumni who are "paying it forward" in their everyday work in the community. Research shows that high expectations, positive role models, strong student-teacher relationships, and believing students will succeed have a direct positive impact on students' academic success and in building a strong community. Models of Excellence recipients will be recognized and celebrated for their service to the OMSD community, for exemplifying positive role models and for continuing to inspire our students to succeed. On April 7th, OMSD Board of Trustees will acknowledge the contributions of five individuals to the OMSD community.

2016 Models are: Joshua Andrews, Nancy DeDiemar, Madeline Gillum, Diana Rubio-Lopez, and Scott Russ.

A unique dimension to the project is the public nature of celebrating excellence. The campaign is creating posters of honorees that will be unveiled at the April 7th Board of Trustees meeting and will also be distributed across the district. The goal of the Excellence Campaign is to bring awareness to the community that excellence is at work every day in the Ontario-Montclair School District.

"Excellence Campaigns are meant to provide schools and communities with the opportunity to define excellence, celebrate excellence, and learn from excellence", commented Dr. Rodriguez. "The locally identified 'Models of Excellence' highlight people who are doing great work for and with their communities. Our students, parents, teachers, and community members deserve to know they are surrounded by excellence every single day. Excellence inspires excellence. "

OMSD Board President Elvia M. Rivas stated, "It will be an honor to celebrate these five individuals who have been and continue to be an important part our community. Each of our Models of Excellence will serve as an outstanding role model to our students".

On Thursday, April 7th, the OMSD Board of Trustees will formally recognize the five Models of Excellence recipients at the regularly scheduled Board meeting. The Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m., however, there will be a reception to celebrate the recipients beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting and reception will be held at Central Language Academy, 415 East G Street, Ontario, CA.