

Ontario-Montclair School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Recognizes Two OMSD Teachers as Teacher of the Year

Ontario-Montclair School District (OMSD) is proud to announce Lillianne Legra Rodriguez of Central Language Academy and Jasmine Saunders of Elderberry Elementary School have been named “2021-2022 Teacher of the Year” by the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools. It is a great honor and distinction to have our very own educational leaders recognized for their hard work and dedication in support of our students, parents, and community.

Lillianne Legra Rodriguez has spent 13 years at OMSD, out of her 22-year career as an educator. She has been a Teacher on Assignment, classroom teacher, and transitioned into her current position as an Instructional Coach at Central Language Academy where she is also a dual-language teacher. This year, Lillianne was also recognized by the Association of Two-Way and Dual Language Education as the 2021 Two-Way Bilingual Immersion Elementary Teacher of the Year at a national level. As a dual-language teacher, it is important for her to not only teach academic content and language acquisition, but also to teach respect and value for other cultures. Her belief of the importance of multi-cultural education for all has positively shown in her work and collaboration with her colleagues and students. It is exciting to see multi-cultural education being recognized throughout the region and at a national level.

“It is an honor for me to represent Ontario-Montclair School District, Central Language Academy, and most importantly, dual-language educators everywhere. These past two years have been the most challenging in my 22-year career and what I have learned is that we cannot do this work alone. I survived online teaching and hybrid teaching by collaborating with my colleagues at Central Language Academy and with the support from my amazing first grade team. I am proud to be part of the Ontario-Montclair School District Family.” stated Lillianne Legra Rodriguez.

Jasmine Saunders has been with OMSD since 2000 and at Elderberry Elementary School since 2001. She has dedicated all of her summers to teach summer school and inspiring students in continuing and encouraging them to learn more. Jasmine has shown leadership and creativity throughout her tenure in OMSD. She has contributed her time and expertise to the School/Satellite Operations Task Group and helped with preparation with the reopening of our schools during the pandemic. She has also provided an exciting and engaging website for students and families to navigate during the virtual classes while continuing to provide a world-class education. She has truly been a great example of what OMSD has to offer the students, families, and community we serve.

“When I found out I was nominated, I was beyond excited. It felt like I was part of the winning team, and that’s what it is. Working alongside colleagues that also believe with everything that we do, we do what’s best for kids. When we love what we do and we believe in what we do, it shows everyday and it spreads to everyone around and at this time it is something that is priceless. It means so much to me to be nominated for Teacher of the Year because I treasure so much not only my colleagues, my students that I’ve had, but just our OMSD family. It really is a family here and I feel so very thankful to be a part of it.” stated Jasmin Saunders.

Congratulations to Lillianne Legra Rodriguez and Jasmine Saunders for their well-deserved recognition for their exemplary work and we thank them both for their service and commitment to the OMSD community.

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“Our Community, Our Children, Our Commitment, Our Future”