Madera County
Excellence in Education
Awards Ceremony

October 12, 2017
Madera County Superintendent of Schools Conference Center
Madera County

Excellence in Education

Proudly sponsored by

Elizabeth J. Dooley
President & CEO
Educational Employees Credit Union

and

Dr. Cecilia A. Massetti
Madera County Superintendent of Schools
Welcome to a very exciting evening as we celebrate eleven years of excellence at its very best! This evening we award honors to special individuals who demonstrate their passion and commitment to children and their families in our schools. We celebrate the accomplishments of educators and instructional staff from throughout Madera County who make a difference on a daily basis. Tonight, we showcase our honorees and the many contributions they have made to enhance the lives of our children. Our honorees are often “unsung heroes” and tonight we shine a light on their achievements and see firsthand how they inspire and teach students every day.

Please join me in expressing appreciation to the Educational Employees Credit Union Board of Directors, President and CEO Beth Dooley and the EECU staff for their commitment to honor educators and for their impact and service to our community. EECU is the sole sponsor of this elegant event. We are fortunate to partner with an organization whose dedication to our schools is genuine and whose helping hands are felt in many ways.

We are excited to celebrate our 11th year as the sponsor of the Madera County Superintendent of Schools Excellence in Education awards program. Through our partnership with the Madera County Superintendent of Schools, we pay tribute to the many fine school employees, teachers, and administrators who exemplify the best the profession has to offer.

We are proud to be part of this event to shine a spotlight on everything that happens inside and outside of the classroom to prepare and guide the students toward a bright future. Congratulations to all of the nominees, finalists, and winners on this well-deserved recognition of their commitment to their students and their profession.
Program

Welcome
Dr. Sally L. Frazier
Master of Ceremonies

Presentation of Colors
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1981

National Anthem
Priscilla Huerta

2016 Honorees
2017 Nominees and Finalists

Greetings
Dr. Cecilia A. Massetti
Madera County Superintendent of Schools

Elizabeth J. Dooley
EECU President & CEO

Acknowledgements, Introduction,
and Presentation of Awards
Dr. Sally L. Frazier
School Employee of the Year

I am extremely humbled to have been nominated for this prestigious award. I would first like to thank the staff that took the time to nominate me. The staff at YUSD Alternative Education is by far the best group of people you would ever want to work with. I am fortunate to not only call them colleagues, but family. Sometimes it gets a bit crazy but we all pull together to make it a great place for kids and our families. At the end of the day we sometimes cry, but most days we laugh.

I would like to thank my current and past site administrators that encouraged me to always move forward in my career. I would like to thank my husband for putting up with my long hours at school, but always encouraging me to do whatever I needed to do to ensure that each student will succeed. My greatest reward is in June when I watch those students walk down the aisle to receive their diploma. Some may have struggled but we came together as a team. That is the greatest reward!

Lawnna Porter
Registrar/Principal’s Secretary
Yosemite Alternative Education
Yosemite Unified School District
Nominees

Martha Bermudez
Secretary-Attendance
Furman High School
Madera Unified School District

Kris Bushong
Library Technician
Chowchilla Union High School
Chowchilla Union High School District

Delia Castillo
Office Clerk
Fairmead Chowchilla Elementary School District

Robin Lawson
Bus Driver/Custodian
All Sites
Chawanakee Unified School District

Jennifer Pascale
Executive Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer
Madera County Superintendent of Schools

Arnulfo Quintero
Lead Custodian
Sierra View Elementary
Golden Valley Unified School District
I am extremely grateful to all of those who have supported me and helped me to become the person that I am today. Throughout my years at Wilson I have learned an incredible amount of knowledge and developed relationships with students and staff that will last a lifetime. At first I was intimidated to work with junior high students but quickly realized that my passion for education would get me through. I am humbled to be a part of the Chowchilla Elementary School District where I am surrounded by amazing people who inspire me daily. Thank you to my family who has continuously supported me throughout the years and listened to me when I needed to vent. My promise to you all is to continue to work hard everyday to help every child be successful in life.
Nominees

Kimberly Bitter
Principal
James Monroe Elementary School
Madera Unified School District

Camille Edmunds
Program Director, Special Education
Gould Educational Center
Madera County
Superintendent of Schools

Fred Faysal
Director MOT
Chawanakee Unified School District

Michael Grossman
Guidance Learning Specialist/
Secondary Counselor
Liberty High School
Ranchos Middle School
Golden Valley Unified School District
It is with humility and honor that I accept this award as the Madera County Excellence in Education Teacher of the Year. Considering the large number of qualified and gifted teachers in this county, I do not take this award lightly. If anything, this recognition reminds me that I must work smarter and harder so that I might best represent the high standards the award demands.

Since the awarding committee has rightly set and adhered to stringent standards for selecting their award winners, it is incumbent upon me to recognize those who helped me achieve at such levels. I want to thank first and foremost my Lord God; next, my wife Wendy and our children Tyler, Ethan, Emma, and Caleb; my mother and father; Chowchilla Union High School District Superintendent Ron Seals; CUHS Principal Justin Miller and Assistant Principals Doreen Castillo and Patrick Nolan; and my wonderful colleagues and friends at CUHS who continue to challenge and push one another.
Nominees

Celine Castaneda
K-6 Teacher
Ronald Reagan Elementary
Chowchilla Elementary School District

Kevin Feramisco
Teacher
Ranchos Middle School
Golden Valley Unified School District

Felipe Magos, Jr.
Teacher, Sixth Grade
Lincoln Elementary School
Madera Unified School District

Laura Montoya
Teacher, Career and Alternative Education Services
Pioneer Technical Center
Madera County Superintendent of Schools

Kaitlin Morgan
Social Science Teacher
Minarets High School
Chawanakee Unified School District
Excellence in Education Sculpture

The Educational Employees Credit Union commissioned Madera artist, Cat Dellavalle, designer of the Excellence in Education trophy to create a sculpture for Madera County Superintendent of Schools. The quote engraved on the trophy was carried over to the sculpture and is embedded in the ring encircling it. The quote reads, “Beauty is truth, truth beauty, - that is all ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.” - Keats.

The sculpture was completed and installed on December 14, 2016. The sculpture recognizes the Excellence in Education program annually honoring the employee, teacher, and administrator of the year.
Planning Committee

Jennifer Pascale, Coordinator
Debbie Babshoff
Aimee Beintker
Melanie Burton
Gladys Diebert
Merrie Lee John
Kelly Kline
Karen Roget
Maggie Yamasaki

Film Crew

Larry Lara
Kurt Macadangdang
Valencia Padilla
Chantiel “Sam” Pedersen
Selection Committee

Tom Hurst

Paulo Soares
Special Thanks

Dr. Sally L. Frazier
Leo Martin, Elegant Occasions
Fresno State String Quartet
Pardini’s Catering and Banquets
La Boulangerie
Nonni’s Bakery
MCSOS ATP Class & Kate Meyer
Madera South High School Floral Design
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1981
Michael Karibian Photography
North Star Photography
MCSOS Staff

Madera County Board of Education
  Cathie Bustos
  Nancy Prosperi
  Alfred Soares, Jr.
  Grant Sturm
  Bobby Thatcher
  Joe Vived
  Sara Wilkins

Educational Employees Credit Union
  Board of Directors
  Derek F. Scharton, Chair
  Mike Snell, Vice Chair
  David A. Roberts, Treasurer
  Paul Hokokian, Secretary
  Cleo Bauer-Papagni
  Rick Browning
  Walter A. Franzell
  Barbara Thomas
  John Tinker, Ph. D.