

Excellence  
in Education  
2017





*We are what we repeatedly do.  
Excellence, then is not an act,  
but a habit.*

-Aristotle





*Educational Employees Credit Union has proudly sponsored the Kings County Excellence in Education program for over 12 years.*

*The Excellence in Education Awards honors educational employees in three categories: Administrator/Manager of the Year, School Employee of the Year, and Teacher of the Year.*

*Those honored represent professional diversity and passion for education. They share this passion daily and constantly strive to form meaningful relationships with students, parents, faculty, and the community.*

*We extend a special gratitude to the selection committee, which is comprised of educators and community leaders from local businesses. They delightfully accept the challenge of reviewing all candidate applications and selecting the finalists and winners.*

*All of the nominees, finalists, and winners represent Excellence in Education. It is a privilege to honor these talented individuals who exemplify the highest standards in their profession.*



*Sponsors*



 **Kings County**  
**Office of Education**

Tim Bowers  
County Superintendent of Schools

# Message



**Elizabeth J. Dooley**  
*President/Chief Executive Officer*  
**Educational Employees Credit Union**

We are proud to partner with the Kings County Office of Education to sponsor the Excellence in Education program. These extraordinary people represent the best of the education profession, and we are proud to be part of this event to shine a spotlight on their achievements, talent and dedication. Congratulations to all of the nominees and winners, and thank you for your commitment to your students and profession.



**Tim Bowers**  
*Superintendent of Schools*  
**Kings County Office of Education**

Every school day school employees such as janitors, bus drivers, yard duty monitors, instructional assistants, cafeteria workers, secretaries, administrators, librarians, and teachers, to name a few, touch the lives of the over 27,000 students in Kings County. This evening, the Excellence in Education Awards Ceremony proudly recognizes their outstanding work. Along with their family and friends, this evening will be a reflection of their accomplishments, triumphs, and most importantly, their positive impact on the children in Kings County. I would also like to acknowledge Educational Employees Credit Union as our sponsor for this event. The Kings County Office of Education is pleased and honored to work in collaboration with the Credit Union to host this special evening.

Congratulations to the nominees and I personally extend a heartfelt thank you for a job well done and wish you continued success!

# Program

## Welcome

*Tim Bowers, County Superintendent of Schools*

## Presentation of Colors

*Lemoore High School NJROTC*

## National Anthem

*Brandi Price*

## Master of Ceremony

*Kopi Sotiropulos*

## Recognition

*EECU Board, Kings County Board of Education,  
and special guests*

## Administrator of the Year Award

*Kopi Sotiropulos*

## Employee of the Year Award

*Kopi Sotiropulos*

## Teacher of the Year Award

*Kopi Sotiropulos*

# *Administrator of the Year*



**Stephanie Eggert**  
Pioneer Union  
Elementary School District



**Alfred Guerrero**  
Reef-Sunset Unified  
School District

# *Employee of the Year*



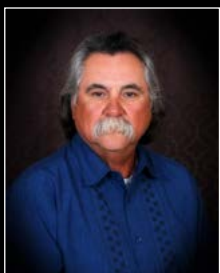
**Suzie Ahumada**  
Lemoore Union  
Elementary School District



**Andrea Barone**  
Kings County  
Office of Education



**Angela Bueno**  
Reef-Sunset Unified  
School District



**Mark Burden**  
Corcoran Unified  
School District



**Astrid Garrovillo**  
Lemoore Union  
High School District



**Tammy Nichols**  
Hanford Joint Union  
High School District



**Kathy Simas**  
Pioneer Union  
Elementary School District



**Margaret Tipton**  
Kings River-Hardwick  
School District



# Teacher of the Year



**Mollie Acosta**  
Pioneer Union  
Elementary School District



**Tracy Cassina**  
Lemoore Union  
Elementary School District



**Mario Gonzalez**  
Lemoore Union  
High School District



**Rose Huff**  
Kings County  
Office of Education



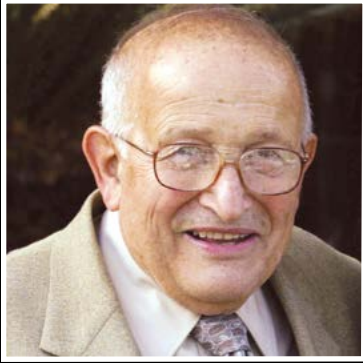
**Ana Isabel Rosas**  
Reef-Sunset Unified  
School District



**Andrew Thornburg**  
Hanford Joint Union  
High School District

# About the Artist

Clement J. Renzi, a noted sculptor who was well-known in Central California, passed away December 1, 2009, at the age of 84.



Renzi was a native of Visalia and a graduate of the University of California Berkeley. In 1954 he accepted an offer to study in Vienna at the Academy of Applied Arts, under Franz Knezl.

From Vienna, Renzi and his wife, Dorothy, moved to New York City where he worked at the Art Students League and the Sculpture Center and his first one-man exhibition was publicly displayed. When their daughter, Jennifer, was three, the Renzi's returned to California. In 1989, a 25-year retrospective of Renzi's sculptural work was displayed at the Fresno Art Center.

The casting of bronze sculptures took Renzi to Italy, Spain, and Mexico. He was especially fortunate to use the foundry of Lester Harry's, a Central Valley bronze caster.

Works by Renzi are in numerous private collections, and his public art can be seen throughout the valley in government buildings, education sites, and hospitals in Merced, Modesto, Fresno, Visalia, Tulare, and Hanford. The last public sculpture Renzi created before his death can be seen in front of the Merced County Office of Education.

Clement had a talent for capturing the joy of life in his art, and we are especially proud of the "Story Time" sculpture he created for the Kings County Office of Education. Clement was an inspiration to all who knew him, and his spirit will live on in the beautiful sculptures he created.

# Past Winners

## *Administrator of the Year*

2016	<b>Sandi Lowe</b> Lemoore Union High School District
2015	<b>Valerie Botelho</b> Lemoore Union High School District
2014	<b>Jamie Rogers</b> Lemoore Union High School District
2013	<b>Heiko Sweeney</b> Central Union School District
2012	<b>Cheryl Hunt</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District
2011	<b>Carmel Draper</b> Reef-Sunset Unified School District
2010	<b>John Partin</b> Central Union School District
2009	<b>Eduardo Ochoa</b> Corcoran Unified School District
2008	<b>LeeAnne Rossiter</b> Central Union School District
2007	<b>Leslie Ann Steffen</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District
2006	<b>Gloria Graville</b> Corcoran Unified School District
2005	<b>Sandi Lowe</b> Lemoore Union High School District
2004	<b>Jim Bennett</b> Lemoore Union High School District
2003	<b>Barbara Zaino</b> Kings County Office of Education

## *Employee of the Year*

2016	<b>Amparo Vryhof</b> Kings River-Hardwick School District
2015	<b>Cara Cummings</b> Lemoore Union High School District
2014	<b>Linda Sharp</b> Corcoran Unified School District
2013	<b>Liz Machado</b> Kings County Office of Education
2012	<b>Olivia Muñoz</b> Reef-Sunset Unified School District
2011	<b>Rick Chennault</b> Pioneer Union Elementary School District
2010	<b>JoAnne Fagundes</b> Lemoore Union High School District
2009	<b>Patricia Hernandez</b> Reef-Sunset Unified School District
2008	<b>Linda Leon</b> Pioneer Union Elementary School District
2007	<b>Paulina Gonzales</b> Reef-Sunset Unified School District
2006	<b>Linda Cotta</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District
2005	<b>Cindi Homburg</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District
2004	<b>Shirley Garretson</b> Kings County Office of Education
2003	<b>Erma Urias</b> Kings County Office of Education
2002	<b>Darlene Stankovich</b> Kings County Office of Education
2001	<b>Virginia Lafferty</b> Lemoore Union High School District
2000	<b>Leslie Arakelian</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District
1999	<b>Robert Martinez</b> Lemoore Union High School District

# Past Winners

## Teacher of the Year

2016	<b>Stacey Pagter Snodgrass</b> Pioneer Union Elementary School District	1998	<b>Antoinette Draxler</b> Pioneer Union Elementary School District
2015	<b>Lisa Butts</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District	1997	<b>Tina M. Lopes</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District
2014	<b>Zona Hoggard</b> Kings County Office of Education	1996	<b>Catherine Seigel</b> Lemoore Union High School District
2013	<b>Alisa Gomez</b> Corcoran Unified School District	1995	<b>Emma Glover</b> Hanford Union Elementary School District
2012	<b>Carol Smith</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District	1994	<b>Wendy Denham</b> Pioneer Union Elementary School District
2011	<b>Melanie Pulliam</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District	1993	<b>Michael Higham</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District
2010	<b>Kristin Duarte</b> Corcoran Unified School District	1992	<b>Joseph C. Taylor</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District
2009	<b>Jeremy D. Scholz</b> Pioneer Union Elementary School District	1991	<b>Donn Keith</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District
2008	<b>Anne L. Hoover</b> Kings County Office of Education	1990	<b>Kenneth Hill</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District
2007	<b>Mark Tunison</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District	1989	<b>Rondaleen Specht</b> Corcoran Unified School District
2006	<b>Gaynl Potter</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District	1988	<b>Bob Smith</b> Lemoore Union High School District
2005	<b>Rae Ann Boyett</b> Corcoran Unified School District	1987	<b>Barbara Black</b> Lemoore Union Elementary School District
2004	<b>Janet Chennault</b> Pioneer Union Elementary School District	1986	<b>Leonard DeRuiter</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District
2003	<b>John Raven</b> Pioneer Union Elementary School District	1985	<b>Rose DeRuiter</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District
2002	<b>John Craft</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District	1984	<b>Carl Eberly</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District
2001	<b>Carla Lewis</b> Kings County Office of Education	1983	<b>Harold Mackey</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District
2000	<b>Paula Anne May</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District	1982	<b>Wesley Nichols</b> Hanford Joint Union High School District
1999	<b>Laurie Goodman</b> Pioneer Union Elementary School District		

# *Special Thanks*

## Event Committee

*Leana Cantrell  
JoAnne Fagundes  
Lisa Franks  
Araceli Hernandez  
Nichole Hernandez*

## National Anthem

*Brandi Price*

## Presentation of Colors

*Lemoore High School NJROTC*

## Selection Committee

*Kimberly Calabretta  
Mary Cavanaugh  
Mary Farrington  
Carole Farris  
Jeff Garner  
Summer Headley  
Donna Kuntz  
Jennifer Mendes  
Suzanne Monroe  
LeeAnne Rossiter  
Jennifer Solis  
Heiko Sweeney*



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