



MERCED COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D.,
County Superintendent of Schools



EXCELLENCE
IN EDUCATION

MERCED COUNTY

2017

STEVE M. TIETJEN, ED.D.

MERCED COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



Welcome to the Excellence in Education awards program — an evening to celebrate teachers and other school employees. Those honored tonight represent quality school employees throughout Merced County. Their vision and passion for education are shared daily with students, parents, educators and the community. The Merced County Office of Education gratefully acknowledges Educational Employees Credit Union's sponsorship of this event and its commitment to education.



ELIZABETH J. DOOLEY

PRESIDENT/CEO EDUCATIONAL EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION



EECU is proud to work in partnership with the Merced County Office of Education on the prestigious Excellence in Education awards program. We have proudly co-sponsored the event since 2006 and look forward to this special evening each year. The educators honored tonight are very deserving of this special recognition. Those who work in education play an important and positive role in inspiring students to be actively engaged in their learning. Their commitment to their students, their school and their communities is remarkable. Congratulations to all of tonight's honorees.



SPECIAL THANKS

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Stephanie Dietz | Steve Roussos | Chelsea Arnold

AWARD ARTIST

Clement J. Renzi

EDUCATIONAL EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION STAFF

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METV

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ABOUT OUR ARTIST



CLEMENT J. RENZI

Clement J. Renzi loved his family, Central California and the art of sculpting. A Visalia native and a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, he studied in Vienna at the Academy of Applied Arts, under Frank Knezl. From Vienna, the casting of bronze sculptures took Renzi to Italy, Spain and Mexico. He was especially fortunate to use the foundry of Lester Harry, a Central Valley bronze caster. Clement passed away on December 1, 2009, at the age of 84. Pictured

below is Renzi's final work: A life-sized, three-figure sculpture titled "Commencement" that was installed in 2011 and adorns the entryway to the Merced 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.





THIS EVENING IS
PROUDLY
 SPONSORED BY



MERCED COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
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 County Superintendent of Schools



EVENT SCHEDULE

GREETINGS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- ◇ Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D.
Merced County Superintendent of Schools

NATIONAL ANTHEM

- ◇ Cossette Asenjo | Marlo Carpenter | Hannah Her
El Capitan High School

FLAG SALUTE

- ◇ Lancers 4-H
Merced, California

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

- ◇ Paul Loeffler
KFIG Radio Host

VIDEO VIGNETTES

- ◇ METV
Merced County Office of Education

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS CEREMONY

- ◇ Paul Loeffler | Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D. | Elizabeth J. Dooley

RESOLUTION & CERTIFICATES

- ◇ Valley Legislators

CLOSING REMARKS

- ◇ Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D. | Elizabeth J. Dooley





TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Carrie has taught nearly all grades from Transitional Kindergarten through fifth grade, and once she got to TK realized she had found her niche. As a TK Teacher, she can concentrate on the "whole child." She is able to facilitate the learning process in a way that is developmentally appropriate and designed for young minds to advance at a pace that suits them.

Carrie is excited to spend her days preparing Peggy Heller's youngest students for success in their educational careers. She is the Lead Teacher for the Transitional Kindergarten

program in the Atwater Elementary School District. TK teachers from around the district meet to discuss their achievements and challenges and work together to make sure that all of the students in the TK program receive the skills to prepare them for Kindergarten. As the Lead teacher in the program, she has found a new purpose in mentoring and supporting the team, especially the new teachers. Carrie feels it is important to support those new teachers, share her passion and experience, and let them know that the role of a teacher truly matters.



CARRIE O'BARA
Atwater Elementary School District





EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



MARISELA PICAZO
Delhi Unified School District

Marisela is more than just a Library Clerk at Harmony Elementary. She is also the student council leader, coordinator of the Glow for Life relay event, organizer of the Junior Academy of Medical Science, co-organizer of the Washington D.C. trip and of course the leader of the Accelerated Reader Program.

Reading is one of Marisela's passions and it is her goal for students to love books as much as she does. She knows that reading can be hard for some students so she tries to help them by showing them books they can read and will enjoy.

Marisela feels that the more students see success and have fun with reading, the more likely they will continue to strive for and reach their reading goals.

Marisela also loves getting involved in the community and helping others and she works with students to get them involved, too. Showing the students how to get involved in volunteering and different community projects helps them understand the importance of helping others. Marisela believes that as adults we are the teachers of our world. We must lead our children by example and educate them in as many ways as possible inside and outside of the classroom.



EMPLOYEE NOMINEES



MARY MONROE
Atwater Elementary School District

As the Library Media Specialist, Mary works with students to achieve their reading goals. While students reap the benefits of learning to read, their families are also impacted in a positive way. Mary has brought events such as Read Across America, Family Reading Night and Wild About Reading to Shafter Elementary School.



FERNANDO MACIEL
Le Grand Union High School District

Through Fernando's guidance as the Conflict Resolution Leader, he provides counseling services for at-risk students to help them make better decisions in the classroom. By working together, students get the opportunity to reconsider their decision to cooperate and look for ways to make things right.



JENNIFER CAMPOS
Merced County Office of Education

As the Payroll & Benefits Technician in the Human Resources department, Jennifer doesn't mind assisting with additional tasks when asked. She is happy to lend a hand to others when necessary or refer someone for help if it is beyond her knowledge. She loves to see people succeed and she wants the employees to feel cared for which can help lessen their burdens or fears.



DONNA L. BANDONI
Merced Union High School District

As a School Secretary, Donna wants to create a comfortable environment for students, parents, staff and community members. Donna likes to impress upon everyone who walks through the front door that they are welcome at Golden Valley High School. Donna has also been known to quietly sponsor students in need of yearbooks, cap and gowns, prom dresses, grad night tickets and track shoes.

TEACHER NOMINEES



CARA HOLLAND
Delhi Unified School District

Cara is a Special Day Class teacher that works with students in TK-3rd Grade. She has an extraordinary talent for identifying and modifying behaviors of the neediest students so they can access instruction. Her positive attitude, sense of humor and pleasant demeanor eases the way for developing constructive relationships with students, staff and parents.



MARY HENDERSON
Dos Palos-Oro Loma Jointed Unified

Recently retired, Mary spent more than 50 years in her district and was even a student there before becoming a teacher. Everyone around Mary agrees that she spent her lifetime career educating young minds so that they may have a better life, and she successfully accomplished that deed annually.

TEACHER NOMINEES



TUCKIE BURGESS
Merced County Office of Education

To Tuckie, physical education is more than free play. She believes every child is entitled to a quality PE program and as an adapted PE teacher, she helps provide that to the students she serves. After 30 years, she has an array of special teaching strategies designed to assist students with special needs to become successful.



JENNY MENDOZA
Merced County Office of Education

Jenny enjoys working with young children because she can teach them through play. She is the type of teacher who gives them a big smile and welcomes them to school every morning. Beyond the classroom, she is also a mentor coach for two students at Merced College and enjoys sharing her passion for early childhood education and knowledge with them.



STEPHEN ECCLES
Merced Union High School District

Along with teaching science for nearly two decades at Merced High School, Stephen serves as a coach in the Aquatics Program. Stephen believes students must learn to think critically and intensively. He wants them to look at a real life, relevant problem or issue and take it apart, explore the facets of the problem, propose evidence-based solutions, collaborate, revise and come up with the best solution through the process.



DAWNA MCCREARY
Weaver Union School District

Along with her regular duties as Teacher Librarian, Dawna publishes the Farmdale website and brought Facebook to their school in an effort to increase communication with parents and the community. Whether students are producing a digital storybook, creating a Google Slides show, or coding, she wants the students to have a fun, positive experience in their learning.