



EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

# AWARDS

November 1, 2017  
Visalia Convention Center

Tulare County  
Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

*in partnership with*



## A Message to the Community

### Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

The Tulare County Excellence in Education Awards is a celebration of those who have made a difference in our schools and local communities. Congratulations to these fine educators! They are true professionals and role models to the children and young adults they serve. Thank you to Tulare County school districts for participating in this awards program and for nominating these outstanding individuals.

We extend our appreciation to Educational Employees Credit Union (EECU), its board of directors and President/CEO Elizabeth Dooley for hosting this elegant morning and for their support of education in Tulare County. EECU is truly our “partner in education.”

Jim Vidak  
Tulare County Superintendent of Schools



EECU has sponsored the Tulare County Office of Education Excellence in Education Awards Program since 1995. We are proud to be part of this special event celebrating educators who are outstanding in their profession.

The educators being honored this year 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 schools, and their communities is remarkable. Congratulations to this year’s nominees, finalists and winners.

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

## Program

Welcome	<b>Jim Vidak</b> Tulare County Superintendent of Schools
Breakfast	<i>Breakfast generously sponsored by EECU</i>
Entertainment	<b>Redwood High School String Quartet</b> <b>Rodney Yokota</b> , Orchestra Director
Tribute to Our Country	<b>Parker Chalabian</b> , Redwood High School <i>National Anthem</i>
Entertainment	<b>Tulare County Office of Education</b> <b>Theatre Company</b> performers <b>Kaitlyn West</b> (Redwood High School, Visalia), <b>Luciano Noguera</b> (Oak Grove Elementary School, Visalia), and <b>Mattie Cole</b> (Home Schooled) <b>Bethany Rader</b> , Theatre Company Director
Introductions by the Tulare County Superintendent of Schools	<b>Jim Vidak</b>
Introduction of Awards Host, Stefanie Bainum	<b>Jim Vidak</b>
Introduction of Past Award Winners	<b>Stefanie Bainum</b> , Anchor & Reporter, KSEE24 <i>Central Valley Today</i>
Recognition of 2017 Selection Committee	<b>Stefanie Bainum</b>
Presentation of Awards, 2017 Nominees & Finalists	<b>Stefanie Bainum</b>
Video Introduction of 2017 Award Winners	<b>Stefanie Bainum</b>
Presentations to 2017 Award Winners	<b>Stefanie Bainum</b>
Closing Remarks	<b>Jim Vidak</b>

## Award Winners



Administrator/Manager  
of the Year

**John Pendleton**  
Principal

Wilson Elementary School  
Tulare City School District



Teacher of the Year

**Kathleen Jarvis**  
First-Grade Teacher

Alpine Vista School  
Tulare City School District



School Employee of the Year

**Naomi Schuler**  
Work-Based Learning Coordinator  
Porterville Unified School District

## Administrator/Manager of the Year Finalists



**Victoria Armstrong**  
Dinuba Unified School District



**Donna Glassman-Sommer**  
Tulare County Office of Education

## Teacher of the Year Finalists



**Yvonne Luiz**  
Tulare Joint Union High School District



**Stephen Miller**  
Monson-Sultana Joint Union School

## School Employee of the Year Finalists



**Lupe Aguilera**  
Tulare Joint Union High School District



**Theresa Freitas**  
Tulare City School District

## Nominees

### Administrator/Manager of the Year Nominees

**Brandon Gridiron**, Visalia Unified School District

**Tammy Milligan**, Lindsay Unified School District

**Darin Pace**, Exeter Unified School District

**Tracy Tucker**, Burton School District

### Teacher of the Year Nominees

**Margaret Britton**, Burton School District

**Amy Downs**, Visalia Unified School District

**Nichole Gregory**, Lindsay Unified School District

**Bethany Micari**, Exeter Unified School District

**Donna Pommerich-Hall**, Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District

**Beatriz Rodriguez Anguiano**, Tulare County Office of Education

**Lisa Waide**, Dinuba Unified School District

### School Employee of the Year Nominees

**Elisa Arellano**, Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District

**Nancy Cervantes**, Visalia Unified School District

**Scott McNeilly**, Lindsay Unified School District

**Benjamin Prado**, Dinuba Unified School District

**Ruth Ruiz**, Woodlake Unified School District

**Chantelle Wood Hightman**, Monson-Sultana Joint Union School District

**Patricia Ziegler**, Burton School District

## 2017 Selection Committee

**Nick Anthony**, Owner, Nick Anthony & Associates

**Melissa Bachtelle**, Program Manager, Connections for Quality Care,  
Tulare County Office of Education

**John Beck**, Retired School Superintendent

**Tammy Bradford**, Assistant Superintendent, Tulare County Office of Education

**John Forenti**, Retired CHARACTER COUNTS! Coordinator

**Kelly Forney**, Workers Compensation Coordinator, Buckman-Mitchell, Inc.

**Teresa Garcia**, Member, Tulare City School District Board of Trustees

**Miguel Granillo**, Retired School Administrator

**Kathleen Green-Martins**, CHOICES Project Coordinator,  
Tulare County Office of Education

**Robert Herman**, Public Information Officer, Tulare County Office of Education

**Dr. Chastity Lollis**, Principal, Burton Middle School, Burton School District

**Marie Macedo**, Human Resources Director, Earlimart School District

**Leigh Mosconi**, Area Director, Special Olympics Northern California

**Phil Plascencia**, Member, Tulare City School District Board of Trustees

**Nicole Rocha**, Administrator, Educational Options,  
Tulare County Office of Education

**John Rodriguez**, Director, Human Resources, Tulare County Office of Education

**Terri Rufert**, Superintendent, Sundale Union School District

**Stephanie Sanchez**, FCCN Program Coordinator, Connections for Quality Care,  
Tulare County Office of Education

**Frank Silveira**, Leadership Coordinator/ELL Content Specialist, New Teacher &  
Leadership Development, Tulare County Office of Education

**Roberto Vaca**, Principal, Orosi High School,  
Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District

**Jim Vidak**, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools

2017 Excellence in Education Awards

	Administrator/ Manager of the Year	Teacher of the Year	School Employee of the Year
<b>2016</b>	<b>Luis Cobarruvias</b> Tulare Joint Union High	<b>Stephen Amundson</b> Tulare Joint Union High	<b>Erik Gonzales</b> Lindsay Unified
<b>2015</b>	<b>Leticia Treviño</b> Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified	<b>Christopher Cumiford</b> Visalia Unified	<b>Evelia Alvarez</b> Porterville Unified (Nominated by Exeter Unified)
<b>2014</b>	<b>John Snavelly, Ed.D.</b> Porterville Unified	<b>Anne Clifford</b> Tulare County Office of Education	<b>Ruben Alvarez</b> Porterville Unified
<b>2013</b>	<b>Luis Castellanoz</b> Tulare City School District	<b>Susan Burley</b> Tulare City School District	<b>Gail Inman</b> Porterville Unified
<b>2012</b>	<b>Brian Hollingshead</b> Tulare City School District	<b>James Kusserow</b> Porterville Unified	<b>Cheri Barnes</b> Tulare County Office of Education
<b>2011</b>	<b>Sue Ann Hillman</b> Tulare City School District	<b>Richard Lambie</b> Porterville Unified	<b>Teresa Sharley</b> Tulare City School District
<b>2010</b>	<b>Brent Calvin</b> College of the Sequoias	<b>Katryn Gonzales</b> Lindsay Unified	<b>Pete Renteria</b> Exeter Public Schools
<b>2009</b>	<b>Dave Tonini</b> Visalia Unified	<b>Michael Young</b> Tulare Joint Union High	<b>Letty Magallan</b> Farmersville Unified
<b>2008</b>	<b>Howard Berger</b> Tulare Joint Union High	<b>Rebecca Bullick</b> Visalia Unified	<b>Jennie Daniels</b> Tulare Joint Union High
<b>2007</b>	<b>Katherine Johnson</b> Porterville Unified	<b>Rick Pence</b> Tulare City School District	<b>Maria Hinojosa</b> Woodlake Union Elementary
<b>2006</b>	<b>Manuel R. Lucero</b> Dinuba Unified	<b>Susan Mathews</b> Visalia Unified	<b>Silvia Thomas</b> College of the Sequoias
<b>2005</b>	<b>Rick Mitchell</b> Tulare County Office of Education	<b>Jeff Cozad</b> Porterville Unified	<b>Glenna Haley</b> Tulare City School District



Celebrating Those Who Make a Difference in Our Schools

	Administrator/ Manager of the Year	Teacher of the Year	School Employee of the Year
<b>2004</b>	<b>Robert “Bob” Perez</b> Porterville Unified	<b>Nancy Machado</b> Tulare City School District	<b>Belen Gomez</b> Woodlake Union Elementary
<b>2003</b>	<b>Senaida Garcia</b> Tulare County Office of Education	<b>Martha Karjala</b> Exeter Union Elementary	<b>Martha Flores</b> Porterville Unified
<b>2002</b>	<b>Don Mierau</b> Dinuba Unified	<b>Mary Cairns</b> Exeter Union High	<b>Linda Milligan</b> Strathmore Union High
<b>2001</b>	<b>Carlyn Lambert</b> Visalia Unified	<b>Terri Fishbough</b> Oak Valley Union	<b>Janie Elson</b> Lindsay Unified
<b>2000</b>	<b>Dr. Don Goodyear</b> College of the Sequoias	<b>James Kliegl</b> Lindsay Unified	<b>Bill Hall</b> Tulare City School District
<b>1999</b>	<b>James Henderson</b> Tulare City School District	<b>Cheryl Schellenberg</b> Dinuba Unified	<b>Arlene Ramirez</b> Tulare County Office of Education
<b>1998</b>	<b>Roger Trujillo</b> Dinuba Elementary	<b>Kathleen Williams</b> Dinuba Elementary	<b>Shirley Holguin</b> Tulare Joint Union High
<b>1997</b>	<b>John Beck</b> Tulare City School District	<b>Bob Doyle</b> Dinuba Joint Union High	<b>Elaine Webb</b> College of the Sequoias
<b>1996</b>	<b>Ken Bryan</b> Tulare Joint Union High	<b>Mary Jo Lichty</b> Strathmore Union High/ Tulare County Office of Education	<b>Vicki Howes</b> Exeter Union High
<b>1995</b>	<b>Renée Whitson</b> Exeter Public Schools	<b>Mark Rupe</b> Dinuba Elementary	<b>Mary Howe</b> Alta Vista School District

## About the Artist



**Clement Renzi**, creator of the sculpture given to the Excellence in Education winners, passed away in 2009. Mr. Renzi was a native Visalian who resided in Fresno. He graduated from Visalia High School and attended College of the Sequoias, the University of California (Berkeley) and art schools in Berkeley, New York, London, and Vienna. Mr. Renzi was commissioned by the Educational Employees Credit Union to create the sculpture, *Graduation Day*, which now stands in front

of the Tulare County Office of Education building. This morning, nominees, finalists and winners receive a limited-edition print of *Graduation Day*. In addition, each award winner is presented with a small, bronze sculpture, *The Graduate*, created by the famous artist.

Describing Clement Renzi's work, Joyce Aiken, Professor Emeritus of Art at California State University, Fresno wrote: "Renzi was a major factor in the renaissance of public art in this area." He will be remembered through his sculptures which can be seen at the Visalia Convention Center, Kaweah Delta Hospital, on Fresno's Fulton Mall, the Fresno County Public Library, Courthouse Park, Selland Arena, Chaffee Zoological Gardens, Fresno City College, CSU-Fresno, St. Agnes Medical Center, St. Anthony of Padua Church, Shrine of St. Therese, and public and corporate buildings around the Central Valley, including a sculpture at the Kings County Office of Education.



*Graduation Day*  
by Clement Renzi

## Acknowledgments

### **Tulare County Office of Education**

*Committed to Students, Support and Service*

**JIM VIDAK**  
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Marlene Moreno, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent  
Jennifer Fisher, Administrative Secretary  
Robert Herman, Public Information Officer

#### **Tulare County Board of Education**

Chris Reed, President  
Judy Coble, Vice President  
Joe Enea · Patricia Hillman  
Debby Holguin · Tom Link · Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

Hosted by:



**ELIZABETH J. DOOLEY**  
PRESIDENT / CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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#### **Additional Thanks**

Stefanie Bainum, KSEE24 Anchor and Awards Host  
2017 Excellence in Education Awards Selection Committee  
Lisa Franks, Community Relations Officer and  
Nicole Franzen, Marketing Coordinator, Educational Employees Credit Union  
Bethany Rader, Director, TCOE Theatre Company  
Lorena White, TCOE Web Developer  
Tulare County Office of Education staff members Cori Bernal, Shelly DiCenzo,  
Kathleen Green-Martins and Kelley Petty  
Rodney Yokota, Orchestra Director, Visalia Unified School District  
Roy Dressel Photography, Visalia, California  
Video by Conan Palmer of the TCOE Planetarium & Science Center  
TCOE Friday Night Live Staff, Tony Cavanagh and Gene Mendes  
Visalia Marriott · Peter Perkens Flowers

***Floral table arrangements are given to winners, finalists and nominees***



EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

A W A R D S

Celebrating Those Who *Make a Difference* in Our Schools