



EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

# A W A R D S

November 2, 2022  
Visalia Convention Center

## Tulare County Office of Education

*Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools*

*in partnership with*



## A Message to the Community

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

*Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools*

Congratulations Excellence in Education winners, finalists, and nominees! You are role models to the children and young adults you serve, and inspirations to everyone around you.

Thank you, 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 co-hosting this wonderful breakfast event and for their support of education in Tulare County. EECU is a true partner in education.

Tim A. Hire  
Tulare County Superintendent of Schools



We are honored to co-sponsor the Excellence in Education event and we extend our sincere congratulations to this year's nominees, finalists, and winners.

These extraordinary people represent the best of the education profession. We are proud to be part of this event to shine a spotlight on their achievements, talents, and dedication.

Thank you for everything you do to ensure that your students receive a quality education and the best school experience possible.

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

## Program

Welcome	<b>Tim A. Hire</b> Tulare County Superintendent of Schools
Breakfast	<i>Breakfast generously sponsored by EECU</i>
Tribute to Our Country	<b>Abby Nelson</b> , Home School <i>National Anthem</i>
Entertainment	<b>Tulare County Office of Education</b> <b>Theatre Company</b> singing <i>How Far I'll Go</i> from <i>Disney's Moana Jr.</i> Featured cast members include: <b>Erin McDonell</b> (Redwood High School), <b>Eli Peters</b> (Valley Life Charter), and <b>Ava Dodson</b> (Ridgeview Middle School) <b>Bethany Rader</b> , Theatre Company Director
Introductions by the Tulare County Superintendent of Schools	<b>Tim A. Hire</b>
Introduction of Awards Host, Gene Mendes	<b>Tim A. Hire</b>
Introduction of Past Award Winners	<b>Gene Mendes</b> , Tulare County Office of Education
Recognition of 2022 Selection Committee	<b>Gene Mendes</b>
Presentation of Awards, 2022 Nominees & Finalists	<b>Gene Mendes</b>
Video Introduction of 2022 Award Winners	<b>Gene Mendes</b>
Presentations to 2022 Award Winners	<b>Gene Mendes</b>
Closing Remarks	<b>Tim A. Hire</b>

## Award Winners



Administrator/Manager  
of the Year  
**Leanne Cerda**  
Principal  
Cutler Elementary School  
Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified  
School District



Teacher of the Year  
**Nancy E. Warkentin**  
Transitional Kindergarten Teacher  
Wilson Elementary School  
Dinuba Unified School District



School Employee of the Year  
**Blanca Esparza**  
Parent Liaison  
Earlimart Middle School  
Earlimart School District

## Administrator/Manager of the Year Finalists



**Lisa Majarian**  
Visalia Unified School District



**Melanie Matta**  
Hope School District

## Teacher of the Year Finalists



**John Boydston**  
Lindsay Unified School District



**Paige Williams**  
Visalia Unified School District

## School Employee of the Year Finalists



**Elsa Avila**  
Tulare City School District



**Mary Ward**  
Visalia Unified School District

## Nominees

### Administrator/Manager of the Year Nominees

Cheri Crook, Tulare City School District  
Gjon Guerrero, Tulare Joint Union High School District  
Tamara Lamb, Farmersville Unified School District  
Stephanie Mendes, Earlimart School District  
Beth Micari, Exeter Unified School District  
Lou Saephan, Woodville Union School District  
Robin Sirr, Dinuba Unified School District  
Peter Sonksen, Lindsay Unified School District

### Teacher of the Year Nominees

Angela Franks, Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District  
Katrina Lewis, The Academies Charter Management Organization  
Erica Miramontes, Monson-Sultana Joint Union School District  
Stefani Munk, Tulare City School District  
Robert Rajewich, Tulare Joint Union High School District  
Chai Saeteurn, Farmersville Unified School District  
Gena Vest, Earlimart School District

### School Employee of the Year Nominees

Alexandra Contreras, Dinuba Unified School District  
Esmeralda Feria Neri, Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District  
Laura Guzman, The Academies Charter Management Organization  
Gail Hartley, Monson-Sultana Joint Union School District  
Noel Ortiz, Lindsay Unified School District  
Jennifer Rodriguez, Farmersville Unified School District  
Timothy S. Seible, Tulare Joint Union High School District

## 2022 Selection Committee

**Nick Anthony**, Pastoral Care, Tulare First Baptist Church

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

**Roy Dressel**, Owner, Roy Dressel Photography

**Joel Glick**, Executive Director, The Creative Center

**Robert Herman**, Communications Director, Tulare County Office of Education

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

**Jennifer Reynolds**, Miracle League Coordinator, Miracle League

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

**Lou Saephan**, Superintendent, Woodville Union School District

**Eddie Valero**, Chairman, County of Tulare Board of Supervisors



## Past Winners

Administrator/  
Manager of the Year

Teacher of the Year

School Employee  
of the Year

**2021** **Michael Lee Akins**  
Dinuba Unified

**Manuela Silveira**  
Tulare County Office  
of Education

**Jeff Lemos**  
Tulare County Office  
of Education

**2020** **Philip Pierschbacher**  
Tulare City Schools

**Stacy Trapletti**  
Tulare City Schools

**Micaela Macareno**  
Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified

**2019** **Clare Gist, Ed.D.**  
Tulare City Schools

**Tabby Grabowski, Ed.D.**  
Tulare Joint Union High

**Taurie Thayer**  
Tulare County Office  
of Education

2022 Excellence in Education Awards

	Administrator/ Manager of the Year	Teacher of the Year	School Employee of the Year
<b>2018</b>	<b>Eloysa Segura</b> Tulare City Schools	<b>Susan Ang</b> Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified	<b>Jose Juan Juarez</b> Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified <b>Bobby Richardson</b> Tulare Joint Union High
<b>2017</b>	<b>John Pendleton</b> Tulare City Schools	<b>Kathleen Jarvis</b> Tulare City Schools	<b>Naomi Schuler</b> Porterville Unified
<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 Schools	<b>Susan Burley</b> Tulare City Schools	<b>Gail Inman</b> Porterville Unified
<b>2012</b>	<b>Brian Hollingshead</b> Tulare City Schools	<b>James Kusserow</b> Porterville Unified	<b>Cherí Barnes</b> Tulare County Office of Education
<b>2011</b>	<b>Sue Ann Hillman</b> Tulare City Schools	<b>Richard Lambie</b> Porterville Unified	<b>Teresa Sharley</b> Tulare City Schools
<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 Schools	<b>Maria Hinojosa</b> Woodlake Union Elementary



Celebrating Those Who Make a Difference in Our Schools

	Administrator/ Manager of the Year	Teacher of the Year	School Employee of the Year
<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 Schools
<b>2004</b>	<b>Robert “Bob” Perez</b> Porterville Unified	<b>Nancy Machado</b> Tulare City Schools	<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 Schools
<b>1999</b>	<b>James Henderson</b> Tulare City Schools	<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 Schools	<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.



*Graduation Day*  
by Clement Renzi

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.

## Acknowledgements

### TULARE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

TIM A. HIRE

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Marlene Moreno, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Robert Herman, Communications Director

Nayirah Dosu, Communications Specialist

Jennifer Fisher, Administrative Secretary

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

Tom Link, President

Joe Enea, Vice President

Judy Coble · Patricia Hillman · Debby Holguin

Celia Maldonado-Arroyo · Chris Reed

Cohosted by: **EECU**

ELIZABETH J. DOOLEY

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### ADDITIONAL THANKS

Gene Mendes, Awards Host

2022 Excellence in Education Awards Selection Committee

Annabel Prindle, Community Relations Officer, and

Nicole Franzen, Marketing Coordinator, EECU

Bethany Rader, Director, TCOE Theatre Company

Tulare County Office of Education staff members Therese Arnold,

Shelly DiCenzo, Kathleen Green-Martins,

Jose Covarrubias, Jonathan Mendoza, and Ashley Eastman

Roy Dressel Photography

Video by Conan Palmer of the TCOE Planetarium & Science Center

TCOE Friday Night Live Staff, Tony Cavanagh

Visalia Marriott · Christine's Flowers · Awards and Signs

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



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