



EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

A W A R D S

October 25, 2023
Tulare County Office of Education
Jim Vidak Education 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	Tim A. Hire Tulare County Superintendent of Schools
Breakfast	<i>Breakfast generously sponsored by EECU</i>
Tribute to Our Country	Story Smith, Eighth Grade, St. Paul's School, Visalia <i>National Anthem</i>
Entertainment	Special video performance by the Tulare County Office of Education Theatre Company cast singing <i>Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree</i> from Rudolph JR. Bethany Rader , Theatre Company Director
Introductions by the Tulare County Superintendent of Schools	Tim A. Hire
Introduction of Awards Host, Rich Rodriguez	Tim A. Hire
Introduction of Past Award Winners	Rich Rodriguez , KMPH Fox 26
Recognition of 2023 Selection Committee	Rich Rodriguez
Presentation of Awards, 2023 Nominees & Finalists	Rich Rodriguez
Video Introduction of 2023 Award Winners	Rich Rodriguez
Presentations to 2023 Award Winners	Rich Rodriguez
Closing Remarks	Tim A. Hire

Award Winners



Administrator/Manager of the Year

Tammy Bradford

Assistant Superintendent

Special Services

Tulare County Office of Education



Teacher of the Year

Jennifer Powers

Fifth Grade Teacher

Heritage Elementary School

Tulare City School District



School Employee of the Year

Sonya Yvonne Lopez

**Work Based Learning Coordinator/
Youth Support Specialist**

Porterville Unified School District

Porterville Unified School District

Finalists

Administrator/Manager of the Year Finalists



Manjeet Dail
Dinuba Unified School District



Grant Schimelpfening
Lindsay Unified School District

Teacher of the Year Finalists



Josie Domingcil
Dinuba Unified School District



Whitney Marroquin
Exeter Unified School District

School Employee of the Year Finalists



Nadia Garcia
Visalia Unified School District



Anthony Totty
Lindsay Unified School District

Nominees

Administrator/Manager of the Year Nominees

Elizabeth Arias, Porterville Unified School District

Adam Brown, Visalia Unified School District

Ruben Castañeda, Woodville Union School District

Benita Cortez, Monson-Sultana Joint Union School District

Leandra Garcia, Tulare Joint Union High School District

Angelica Jimenez, Earlimart School District

Kristen Kirk, Exeter Unified School District

Deborah Parker, Tulare City School District

Mario Rodriguez, Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District

Teacher of the Year Nominees

Debbie Almeida, Oak Valley Union School District

Jill Dudley-Coyle, Tulare Joint Union High School District

Jodie Fernandez, Earlimart School District

Estela González, Lindsay Unified School District

Cristina Kaviani-Johnson, The Academies Charter Management Organization

Anavela Lopez, Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District

Joseph F. Rico, Monson-Sultana Joint Union School District

Diane R. Townsend, Visalia Unified School District

Laura Voshall, Pixley Union School District

School Employee of the Year Nominees

Whitney Blackmon, The Academies Charter Management Organization

Belinda Briano, Tulare Joint Union High School District

Jennifer Freitas, Oak Valley Union School District

Melissa Galafate, Earlimart School District

Brandie Giron, Pixley Union School District

Erika Llamas, Tulare City School District

Claudia Prado, Dinuba Unified School District

J. Guadalupe Villaseñor, Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District

Catalina Zaragoza, Monson-Sultana Joint Union School District

2023 Selection Committee

Nick Anthony, Pastoral Care, Tulare First Baptist Church

Janice Castle, Market President, Porterville/Lindsay Area, Bank of the Sierra

Roy Dressel, Owner, Roy Dressel Photography

Robert Herman, Communications Director, Tulare County Office of Education

Larry Micari, District 1 - Vice Chair, County of Tulare Board of Supervisors

Leigh Mosconi, Area Director, Special Olympics Northern California

Terri Rufert, Retired Superintendent, Sundale Union School District

Lou Saephan, Superintendent, Woodville Union School District



Past Winners

Administrator/
Manager of the Year

2022 Leanne Cerda
Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified

Teacher of the Year

Nancy E. Warkentin
Dinuba Unified

School Employee
of the Year

Blanca Esparza
Earlimart

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

2023 Excellence in Education Awards

Administrator/
Manager of the Year

Teacher of the Year

School Employee
of the Year

2018 Eloya Segura
Tulare City Schools

Susan Ang
Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified

Jose Juan Juarez
Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified
Bobby Richardson
Tulare Joint Union High

2017 John Pendleton
Tulare City Schools

Kathleen Jarvis
Tulare City Schools

Naomi Schuler
Porterville Unified

2016 Luis Cobarruvias
Tulare Joint Union High

Stephen Amundson
Tulare Joint Union High

Erik Gonzales
Lindsay Unified

2015 Leticia Treviño
Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified

Christopher Cumiford
Visalia Unified

Evelia Alvarez
Porterville Unified
(Nominated by
Exeter Unified)

2014 John Snavelly, Ed.D.
Porterville Unified

Anne Clifford
Tulare County
Office of Education

Ruben Alvarez
Porterville Unified

2013 Luis Castellanoz
Tulare City Schools

Susan Burley
Tulare City Schools

Gail Inman
Porterville Unified

2012 Brian Hollingshead
Tulare City Schools

James Kusserow
Porterville Unified

Cherí Barnes
Tulare County
Office of Education

2011 Sue Ann Hillman
Tulare City Schools

Richard Lambie
Porterville Unified

Teresa Sharley
Tulare City Schools

2010 Brent Calvin
College of the Sequoias

Katryn Gonzales
Lindsay Unified

Pete Renteria
Exeter Public Schools

2009 Dave Tonini
Visalia Unified

Michael Young
Tulare Joint Union High

Letty Magallan
Farmersville Unified

2008 Howard Berger
Tulare Joint Union High

Rebecca Bullick
Visalia Unified

Jennie Daniels
Tulare Joint Union High

2007 Katherine Johnson
Porterville Unified

Rick Pence
Tulare City Schools

Maria Hinojosa
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

2006 Manuel R. Lucero
Dinuba Unified

Susan Mathews
Visalia Unified

Silvia Thomas
College of the Sequoias

2005 Rick Mitchell
Tulare County
Office of Education

Jeff Cozad
Porterville Unified

Glenna Haley
Tulare City Schools

2004 Robert “Bob” Perez
Porterville Unified

Nancy Machado
Tulare City Schools

Belen Gomez
Woodlake Union
Elementary

2003 Senaida Garcia
Tulare County
Office of Education

Martha Karjala
Exeter Union Elementary

Martha Flores
Porterville Unified

2002 Don Mierau
Dinuba Unified

Mary Cairns
Exeter Union High

Linda Milligan
Strathmore Union High

2001 Carlyn Lambert
Visalia Unified

Terri Fishbough
Oak Valley Union

Janie Elson
Lindsay Unified

2000 Dr. Don Goodyear
College of the Sequoias

James Kliegl
Lindsay Unified

Bill Hall
Tulare City Schools

1999 James Henderson
Tulare City Schools

Cheryl Schellenberg
Dinuba Unified

Arlene Ramirez
Tulare County
Office of Education

1998 Roger Trujillo
Dinuba Elementary

Kathleen Williams
Dinuba Elementary

Shirley Holguin
Tulare Joint Union High

1997 John Beck
Tulare City Schools

Bob Doyle
Dinuba Joint Union High

Elaine Webb
College of the Sequoias

1996 Ken Bryan
Tulare Joint Union High

Mary Jo Lichty
Strathmore Union High/
Tulare County
Office of Education

Vicki Howes
Exeter Union High

1995 Renée Whitson
Exeter Public Schools

Mark Rupe
Dinuba Elementary

Mary Howe
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 Health Medical Center, 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 · Debby Holguin · Celia Maldonado-Arroyo
Chris Reed · Tony Rodriguez

Cohosted by: **EECU**

ELIZABETH J. DOOLEY

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ADDITIONAL THANKS

Rich Rodriguez, Awards Host

2023 Excellence in Education Awards Selection Committee

Annabel Prindle, Community Relations Officer, and

Nicole Franzen, Marketing Coordinator, EECU

Tulare County Office of Education staff members Craig Alameda,

Therese Arnold, Vanessa Cantu, Kathleen Green-Martins, Brook Killingsworth,
Kelley Petty, Freddy Reyes, and Paula Terrill

Roy Dressel Photography

Video by Conan Palmer of the TCOE Planetarium & Science Center and

Bethany Rader, Director, TCOE Theatre Company

Ruiz Catering · Christine's Flowers · Awards and Signs

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



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AWARDS

Celebrating Those Who *Make a Difference* in Our Schools