



EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS

October 22, 2025
Tulare County Office of Education
Jim Vidak Education Center

Tulare County Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

in partnership with



Welcome

TULARE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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

Tulare County Board of Education
Chris Reed, President
Tony Rodriguez, Vice President
Judy Coble • Tom Link • Ruben Macareno
Celia Maldonado-Arroyo • Mike Waters

Cohosted by: **EECU**

For 30 years, EECU has proudly co-sponsored the Excellence in Education Awards event celebrating outstanding teachers, administrators/managers, and school employees in Tulare County.

We applaud the dedicated individuals who play a vital role in guiding our children toward a future full of unlimited possibilities.

It is our pleasure to congratulate all of the honorees on this well-deserved recognition of their commitment to their students, schools, and communities.

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

Board of Directors
Ali Nekumanesh, Chair
Lisa Cutts, Vice Chair
David A. Roberts, Treasurer
Darcy Williams, Secretary
Walter A. Franzell • Phil Neufeld • Derek Scharton
Mike Snell • Brad Stevens

Program

Welcome	Tim A. Hire Tulare County Superintendent of Schools
Breakfast	<i>Breakfast generously sponsored by EECU</i>
Tribute to Our Country	Ella Marshall, 8th Grade, Ridgeview Middle School, Visalia <i>National Anthem</i>
Entertainment	Leo Paez, 12th Grade, Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center singing “Close Every Door” from <i>Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat</i>
Introductions	Tim A. Hire
Recognition of Selection Committee	Dennis Townsend , Awards Host Tulare County Board of Supervisors
Awards Presentation	Dennis Townsend
Closing Remarks	Tim A. Hire

2025 Selection Committee

- Nick Anthony**, Nick Anthony & Associates
- Tammy Bradford**, Assistant Superintendent, Tulare County Office of Education
- Martha Flores**, Retired Educator and Former Mayor, City of Porterville
- Leigh Mosconi**, Area Director, Special Olympics Northern California
- Steve Nelsen**, CEO/Executive Director, Downtown Visalia
- Terri Rufert**, Retired Superintendent, Sundale Union School District
- Valarie Seita**, Librarian, Tulare County Office of Education
- Liz Wynn**, Vice Mayor, City of Visalia

Award Winners



Administrator/Manager of the Year

Andrew Woodley

Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Porterville Unified School District



Teacher of the Year

Heather Silva

Sixth-Grade Teacher
Alpine Vista School
Tulare City School District



School Employee of the Year

Joanna Woodyatt

Registered Behavior Technician
Rocky Hill Elementary School
Exeter Unified School District

Finalists
Administrator/Manager of the Year



Dori Bingaman
Visalia Unified School District



Mathew Newcomb
Lindsay Unified School District

Teacher of the Year



Megan Jensen
Valley Life Charter Schools



Angela Leon
Exeter Unified School District

School Employee of the Year



Augustin "Auggie" Lopez
Dinuba Unified School District



Yesenia Lopez
Tulare Joint Union High
School District

Nominees

Administrator/Manager of the Year

Lionel Preciado, Oak Valley Union School District

Gina Sani Ramshaw, Dinuba Unified School District

Angela Robertson, Tulare Joint Union High School District

Joel T. Robertson, Tulare City School District

Jennifer Robledo Vargas, Monson-Sultana Joint Union School District

Stephanie Rocha, Pixley Union School District

Gary Sanchez, Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District

Teacher of the Year

Brianna Bakke, The Academies Charter Management Organization

Denise Bese, Monson-Sultana Joint Union School District

Kristina Delgadillo, Visalia Unified School District

Monica Figueroa, Woodlake Unified School District

Jonathan Gaspar, Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District

Rebecca Isch, Pixley Union School District

Lana Jimenez, Lindsay Unified School District

Fadra Kiehn, Dinuba Unified School District

Michelle Kirk, Oak Valley Union School District

Michelle L. Reindl, Tulare Joint Union High School District

School Employee of the Year

Diego Andrade, Visalia Unified School District

Frances Cisneros, Woodlake Unified School District

Rosario Contreras, Lindsay Unified School District

Irene Flores, Porterville Unified School District

Rosalba Garcia, Pixley Union School District

Raynette Marquez, Oak Valley Union School District

Elva Moreno, Monson-Sultana Joint Union School District

Arelí Quezada, Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District

Denice Rivera, The Academies Charter Management Organization

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 administration 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.

Past Winners



**Scan to view past recipients or
visit tcoe.org/awards/past**

ADDITIONAL THANKS

Dennis Townsend, Awards Host

2025 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,

Jaime Burnitzki, Zoty Briceño, Nayirah Dosu, Annette Eickelberg,

Jennifer Fisher, Lilly Flores, Kathleen Green-Martins, Rob Herman,

Brook Killingsworth, Jeff Lemos, Anthony Paz, Freddy Reyes, and Paula Terrill

Entertainment, sound, and video production by

Tulare County Office of Education, Stage and Space Collaborative

Conan Palmer, Technical Director • Bethany Rader, Theatre Company Director

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



Celebrating Those Who *Make a Difference* in Our Schools