

SPOTLIGHT

On
Our
Staff



FULLERTON JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

1051 WEST BASTANCHURY ROAD, FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA 92833 ♦ VOL. 28 NO. 1 ♦ Fall, 2016

Presenting the Outstanding 2016/17 Employees of the Year...



Congratulations to Fullerton Union High School (FUHS) theatre and English teacher and Performing Arts Department Chair Michael Despars on his selection as Co-District Teacher of the Year. Michael has been teaching in the District since 2008 and has taught theatre for eleven years. Michael earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Southern California and his Master's degree in Education from Azusa Pacific University. In 2015 he earned a second Master's degree in Theatre from the University of Northern Colorado. In 2015 the California Educational Theatre Association's (CETA) awarded Michael the Theatre Leadership Award and in 2010 the New Teacher Award. Michael currently serves as the Vice President of Public High Schools for CETA and is the Director of the Orange County CAPIES Critics Program in conjunction with the Orange County Department of Education.

Michael Despars

La Habra High School (LHHS) English teacher and Theatre Director Brian Johnson is congratulated for being selected as Co-District Teacher of the Year. Brian earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Biola University. Brian joined the District in 2004 and has taught at LHHS ever since. He plays a major role as an English teacher and Theatre Director at LHHS. Brian built the extremely successful theater program at LHHS. The Theatre Guild program attracts students from all over Orange and Los Angeles counties and was recognized as the top theatre program in the Southwest region of the United States. Brian developed the "Drama Buddies" program, which partners with Rolling Hills Elementary and is co-Director at Fullerton Children's Repertory Theater. Brian believes that students learn best by doing and that students grow and progress the most when their work is made public. Brian loves teaching theater.



Brian Johnson

Congratulations to Senior Records Clerk Andrew Acosta on his selection as the District's Classified Employee of the Year. Andrew has served the District for 14 years and currently serves as the APIO Secretary at La Habra High School. Some of his responsibilities include assisting the APIO with the site budget, maintaining the school's website and activities calendar, and assisting parents and students.

Andrew works effectively with others and has many outstanding qualities. He is a person of integrity, is well respected, and known to be genuine with others. He is the "go to" person at LHHS and parents, students, and staff members enjoy interacting with Andrew. Andrew enjoys the versatility, high energy and fast paced environment at LHHS. He states, "Every day is a new and different experience at work."



Andrew Acosta

Campus Teachers and Site Classified Employees of the Year

Weston Baughn, Education Center



Weston began working for the District in 2001 as a Computer and Multimedia Technician. He joined the technology team at the District one year ago after working at SHHS. Weston has a good understanding of site policies and procedures, which enables him to help site staff members with technology issues. His knowledge and expertise grows on a daily basis. Weston learns new technology by reading articles, attending seminars, and researching current and upcoming technologies. Weston is an asset to the District and is highly respected by his coworkers and administration. He is dependable, professional, and always willing to help staff members when needed. Weston feels the most important part of his job is to make sure all teachers and students have access to and the usability of all technology needed in the classroom.

Jose Soto, District Service Center



Jose Soto has worked for the District for 26 years and is the current Maintenance Electrician and the DSC. He began working for the District as a custodian and was promoted to Maintenance Electrician. Jose's expertise in electrical wiring provides a key role to the District. He has a vast array of knowledge and experience in many trades. His workmanship, dedication, and professionalism are highly regarded by his coworkers and administration. Some of the services Jose provides for the District are; electrical panel maintenance, repair and replace a lighting systems, installing new conduit and pull wire as needed for additional circuitry, and other electrical services. Jose believes the most important aspect of his job is supporting the students and students' safety.

Jason Nguyen, District Transportation Center



Jason Nguyen has been employed by the District since 2006. He currently is a bus Driver for the District Transportation Department. Jason is an exceptional employee who exhibits professionalism in every aspect of his job as a bus driver. He is consistent and dependable and rarely misses a day of work. He adheres to high standards and takes special notice to maintain safe driving practices that are required as a bus driver. Jason enjoys working for the District, interacting with students, and coworkers. He believes the most important part of his job is safety, consistency, and dependability while driving a school bus.

Lisa Scott, Buena Park High School



Lisa Scott began her career in the District in 2001 at BPHS teaching Physical Education and math. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Whittier College and a single subject teaching credential in Physical Education, Health Science, and Mathematics. Currently, she teaches AVID and has been the ASB advisor for four consecutive years at BPHS. She has coached volleyball, basketball, and softball for the District in the past. Lisa works countless hours to support her students in and out of the classroom. Lisa's philosophy of teaching is to motivate her student by setting high expectations. Her students constantly hear her saying, "never settle" time and time again. Ms. Scott is a selfless, dedicated, and passionate teacher. Her students trust and seek her advice professionally and often return after graduating to seek her advice for mentoring.

Campus Teachers and Site Classified Employees of the Year

Shant Arslanian, Buena Park High School

Shant Arslanian began working for the District in March of 2015 as a Technology and Media Technician. After one year of being employed by the District, the entire staff at BPHS selected Shant to be Classified Employee of the Year. He is highly knowledgeable in all aspects related to technology. There seems to be nothing that Shant does not know about technology. If he does not know, you can count on him to do the research and know the next day. One of his coworkers stated, "I put in an e-ticket for help and before I can get to my next task, Shant arrives and is on it." Shant feels the most important part of his job is to give the students the best quality of education they could receive by making sure classroom technology is up and running.



Elizabeth Oseguera, Fullerton Union High School

Elizabeth Oseguera has worked for the District for 25 years. She began in 1992 as an Instructional Aide and was promoted to a Typist Records Clerk, and currently works as a Senior Records Clerk at Fullerton Union High School. Elizabeth is hard working, dedicated, and professional. When a parent or student has a concern, she takes her time to effectively work with them to address the concern and find a solution. Elizabeth likes interacting with students and encourages them to strive for more and being able to help them in any way she can. You can always count on her friendly greeting and smile when you visit the office at FUHS.



Hong Yee, La Sierra High School

Hong Yee began working for the District in 2012 as a School Psychologist at La Sierra High School. Hong earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2006 and a Master of Science degree in 2008 in psychology from the University of the Pacific and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology in 2013. Dr. Yee is the co-department chair at LS/LVHS for the District's Special Education Adult Transition program (ATP). Dr. Yee works long hours assessing her caseloads of students and presenting information at department chair meetings. Dr. Yee always has a positive outlook on all situations and feels the best thing about teaching is watching students learn and grow. She is a key contributor to extracurricular activities such as prom, graduation, community field trips and staff events.



Iliana Mendez, La Sierra High School

Iliana Mendez is an Instructional Aide at LSHS in the Opportunities Program and has worked for the District since 2001. Iliana has a genuine passion for working with at-risk students and takes her time to get to know each student she works with. Iliana manages the lunch-time tutoring program for LS/LVHS where students work on their APEX on-line classes and regular class assignments. Administration and teachers are always able to count on Iliana. Iliana believes the most important part of her job is building relationships and motivating the students. Iliana is a LSHS graduate and is perfect role model and mentor to the student.



Campus Teachers and Site Classified Employees of the Year

Maria Castro, La Vista High School



Maria Castro began her career with the District in 2000. She is the lead counselor and Department Chairperson at LVHS. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University, Fullerton and a Master of Arts degree in Education and a PPS credential at Azusa Pacific University in 2004. Her duties include scheduling, academic/personal counseling, testing, coordinating workshops for financial aid, and conflict management. Her philosophy about teaching is to show respect to students and families, have empathy, and be a good listener. Maria spends endless hours meeting with students and her door is always open for students. Maria has also taught Social Sciences and coached Girls' Basketball and served as a community college counselor and professor.

Dora Marquez, La Vista High School



Dora Marquez is an Instructional Aide at LVHS for the Teenage Pregnant and Parenting Program (TAPP). She started working for the District twelve years ago. She earned a Child Development Teachers Permit and Associates Degree from Rio Hondo College. She has attended trainings in the areas of CELDT, IEP, Infant Toddler, and Community Resource. Dora serves as a liaison between the teen mothers and childcare staff communicating the needs, questions, and concerns. Dora has also served as an ESL Instructional Aide and helps translate at parent meeting and IEPs. Dora enjoys having the opportunity to communicate with parents and students at IEPs and working with the TAPP program. Dora believes in staying positive and setting a good example.

David Fenstermaker, Sunny Hills High School



David began his career working for the District in 1998. David earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Riverside and a Master of Science degree in Education with an emphasis in technology from National University. He currently teaches history at SHHS and is the ASB advisor. David has taught World History, AP Psychology, US History, IB History, and Leadership. David has coached Boys' Basketball, football, softball, track, and from 2008 to 2011, he served as the Assistant Athletic Director. David is an amazing educator and is able to connect with the students. His love and passion for learning are visible in every interaction. He participates at nearly every after-school event even on the weekends.

Daniel Rodriguez, Sunny Hills High School



Daniel Rodriguez began working for the District in July of 2015. David is the Custodial Supervisor at Sunny Hills High School. Daniel earned an Associate's degree in Construction Technology from Fullerton Community College. Within a short time, David emerged into an exceptional leader for the custodial staff team. His attention to detail, organizational skills, intelligence, and compassion are exemplary. Parents and staff members have noticed improvements with the SHHS campus grounds since Daniel came on board. Daniel goes above and beyond to help parents, students, and staff members in any way. From planting flowers, volunteering for after school events, to monitoring traffic in the morning, Daniel is always there when you need him. Daniel feels being a good leader and setting a good example is important.

Campus Teachers and Site Classified Employees of the Year

Cathy Wolkenhauer, Sonora High School

Cathy Wolkenhauer began her tenure in the District in 1990. She began as a classified employee working as the Principal’s Secretary for LV/LSHS. She currently teaches Community Based Instructional for the special education autism class at Sonora High School. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and an Education Specialists Credential at California Polytechnic State University, Pomona. Cathy is an exceptional teacher and goes above and beyond for her students. Her patience, love, and dedication for teaching are admired by her coworkers and administration. Cathy has received multiple awards and recognitions including: PTA Honorary Service Award for SOHS; Troy High School PTSA Educator of the Year; and LVHS Classified Employee of the Year.



Teresa Zambrano, Sonora High School

Teresa Zambrano began working for the District in 1997 and currently is the Principal’s Secretary at SOHS. She has held the positions of Instructional Aide, Typist Records Clerk, and Senior Records Clerk for the District. Teresa has completed business and accounting classes at Cypress College. Teresa is a hard worker, has excellent organization skills, and is professional. She is a valued member of the SOHS staff. Teresa is the first person you see when you enter the doors at SOHS. She is always there when you need her and always willing to help solve any problems that may arise. Teresa feels the most important part of her job is, “making sure each school day begins and ends safely and successfully.” Another important aspect of her job includes assisting the Principal in any way she can.



Laurie Downum, Troy High School

Laurie Downum began her tenure working for the District in 1993. Laurie earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science Information Systems and a Master of Science degree in Administration and Leadership at CSUF. Laurie is the Troy Tech (TT) Magnet Program Coordinator and teaches business and Computer Science at Troy High School. Laurie is a dedicated and influential advocate who spends endless hours ensuring that her students have all the available resources they need to secure their internships and succeed in the TT program. Her personalized approach in providing program tours and pathway course selection guidance is appreciated by TT parent and students.



Message from the Superintendent

Our 2016/17 Teachers and Classified Employees of the Year are outstanding representatives of the high quality that characterizes our District. It is most heartwarming and gratifying to work in a school district where there exists a sense of collective responsibility, a great respect for teaching, a common concern for the welfare of all students and members of the District community, high expectations, and a strong belief in improvement. I am proud to be associated with all of the dedicated and highly professional District staff members.



The dedicated and skilled teachers and staff members of our District, in partnership with our parents and community members, create the foundation for the success of our students and schools. Our schools are exceptional assets to the communities we serve and are extraordinary places for all students to learn and grow into good citizens and responsible adults. The selfless devotion of our staff members to the growth and development of every student is highly commended, and greatly recognized and appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Scambray".

Scott Scambray, Ed.D.

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Scott Scambray, Ed.D.

Fullerton Joint Union High School District