

SPOTLIGHT

On
Our
Staff



FULLERTON JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

1051 WEST BASTANCHURY ROAD, FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA 92833 ♦ VOL. 30 NO. 1 ♦ Fall, 2018

Presenting the Outstanding 2018/19 Employees of the Year...



Congratulations to La Habra High School (LHHS) Social Science teacher Derek Marshall on his selection as Co-District Teacher of the Year. Derek joined the District in 1997 and currently teaches World History for the Heritage Magnet Program. Derek earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in social science from the University of Southern California; a Master's degree in education from Claremont McKenna College; and a Master's degree in education administration from California State University, Fullerton. Derek is an innovative teacher who teaches students through text sets, hyper docs, Podcast, TED Talks, project-based learning, and many other teaching strategies. Derek has held multiple lunch time workshops for his colleagues to assist teachers with the setup of Google classroom.

Derek Marshall

La Sierra High School (LSHS) Independent Study teacher, Department Chair of the iSierra Online Academy, and District Summer School Health Coordinator Lisa Valdes is congratulated for being selected as Co-District Teacher of the Year. Lisa earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership at California State University, Fullerton. Lisa joined the District in 1999 as the Marketing and Business Academy instructor at La Habra High School. Lisa designed the iSierra Academy that offers a-g courses, CIF and NCAA-approved courses, and online curriculum that meets the District's graduation requirements. Lisa coordinates the school website and is the FSTO site representative at LSHS. Lisa is an APEX presenter on the national circuit.



Lisa Valdes



Anna López

Congratulations to Education Center (EC) District Community Liaison Anna López on her selection as the District's Classified Employee of the Year. Anna has served as the District Community Liaison for the last three years. Anna completed a bachelor's degree in Spanish and Integrated Educational Studies at Chapman University and is pursuing a Master's degree to earn a counseling credential at California State University, Dominguez Hills. Anna strongly believes the most important part of her job is to support homeless students, foster youth, and English Learners in their academic, social-emotional, and basic welfare needs. In 2016, she developed a partnership with Fullerton's Love of Orange County Kids (FLOCK), which provides clothing, food, and transportation to the District's homeless students.

Campus Teachers and Site Classified Employees of the Year

Tony Gonzalez, District Service Center



Tony Gonzalez began working for the District 39 years ago and recently retired in May, 2018. Tony was one of the District Service Center (DSC) HVAC technicians. He was a valuable employee and earned the respect of his co-workers. Tony completed an Associates degree from Cypress College and is a NATE certificated HVAC technician. Tony is also a certified California contractor. Tony has the skill-set to repair any HVAC unit no matter how difficult the problem is. Tony's supervisors received numerous compliments on his job performance at the District schools. Tony was known for his humble, down-to-earth personality and friendly demeanor.

Jesus Juarez, District Transportation Center



Jesus Juarez was hired by the District in August of 2016 as a school bus driver at the District Transportation Center (DTC). Jesus has 28 years of experience as a bus driver. Jesus strongly believes the value of team work. He states, "T.E.A.M.- Together, everyone, achieves, more." Jesus is certified in CPR/First Aid and holds a certified school bus special drivers certificate and is pursuing a behind-the-wheel trainer certificate. As a school bus driver, Jesus consistently exercises leadership and exhibits exemplary work ethics. Jesus always assists staff members, students, and parents in a professional manner. Jesus is a hard worker and is committed in providing excellent customer service.

Lilliana Gallo, Buena Park High School



Lilliana Gallo joined the District in August of 2016 as an English Language Family Liaison at Buena Park High School (BPHS). Lilliana earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Spanish and a Master's degree in Spanish and Linguistics from California State University, Fullerton. She holds a Single Subject Spanish Credential and a Preliminary Administrative Services Credential. Lilliana coordinates the ELPAC and Parent University meetings at BPHS and is part of the school site council. Recently, she created the Coyote Language Institute, which is an after-school program for ELD students. Lilliana is an asset to BPHS and has a passion for empowering parents and students.

Christina Ursua- Moreno, Buena Park High School



Christiana Ursua-Moreno began her career in the District 6 years ago at Buena Park High School (BPHS). She is currently the Library Technician and Boys' Head Soccer Coach at BPHS. Christina earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies at California State University, Dominguez Hills. Christina has demonstrated a level of commitment to staff members, students, and parents. She has made a positive impact to the students at BPHS and the athletic department. She welcomes all students and teaches respect and pride through her coaching. Christina is a mentor, role model, and teaches her students through motivation and love. Christina believes the most important part of her job is teamwork, communication, organization, and work ethic.

Campus Teachers and Site Classified Employees of the Year

Maggie Crail, Fullerton Union High School

Maggie Crail began her tenure with the District in 2000 at Fullerton Union High School (FUHS) teaching art. Maggie is the lead organizer of the FUHS gallery art showcases, which displays student artwork and photography. The Visual Arts program at FUHS has grown since Maggie has been a part of the department. Maggie embodies the essence of a true passionate educator who cares about students. Maggie earned a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts and a Master's degree in Education and Administration from California State University, Fullerton. Maggie has taught Foundations of Photography, Advanced Photography, AP Studio, Arts 2D, and Drawing and Painting.



Fernando Serna, Fullerton Union High School

Fernando Serna joined the District 15 years ago. He served as the Custodial Supervisor at Fullerton Union High School in the 2017-18 school year and currently serves at Sunny Hills High School. Fernando always has a smile on his face and is always willing to help anyone who may need assistance. Fernando has a strong work ethic and is responsible for maintaining a clean and safe environment for students, and staff members. Fernando is a quick learner and willingly goes above and beyond his work duties. Fernando enjoys working with his new coworkers and enjoys his new responsibilities at Sunny Hills High School.



Evaristo Sanchez, La Habra High School

Evaristo Sanchez began working for the District 18 years ago as a custodian. Evaristo has served as the custodial supervisor at La Habra High School (LHHS) for the past seven years and is responsible for communicating with District leadership, site leadership, and his custodial team. Evaristo is always professional, a school advocate, and focused on having a safe and beautiful campus at LHHS year round. Evaristo states "The most important part about my job is to make sure the campus is clean and safe for students and staff." Evaristo is always working whether he is picking up trash, cleaning classrooms, watering plants, or setting up for an event; whatever is needed Evaristo will do.



Erika Bircsak, La Sierra High School

Erika Bircsak has worked for the District for 32 years as an instructional aide in special education. Erika is admired by students, staff members, and parents. Erika works with adult special education students with severe disabilities at the LSHS Endeavor location. Her duties include feeding and assisting special education students. Erika is known for her compassionate, caring demeanor and no-fuss attitude. Erika studied European studies in Hungary and attended two years of college studying Psychology. Erika states, "I enjoy helping students with special needs and believe all students are entitled to an education."



Campus Teachers and Site Classified Employees of the Year



Pam Apolinar, La Vista High School

Pam Apolinar began working for the District in 1997 as an instructional aide working with the Teenage and Parent Program. In 2002, Pam began teaching at La Vista High School (LVHS). Pam currently teaches Social Science at LVHS and has taught World History, Government, and Academy. Pam earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from California State University, Fullerton and a Single Subject Teaching credential from California State University, Long Beach. Pam has worked hand-in-hand with the Social Science department chair to restructure the curriculum, instruction, and assessment of the social science department to match the Common Core Literacy Standards. Pam is the advisor of the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) club.



Maria Izurieta, La Vista High School

Maria Izurieta began working for the District 17 years ago and is currently a Guidance Technician at La Sierra/La Vista High Schools. As a Guidance Technician, Maria organizes and implements State, District and, campus testing, assists with financial aid and community college workshops and manages the Gates-MacGintie reading tests reporting. Maria feels the most important part of her job is helping students discover different colleges and careers. Maria enjoys coordinating college night and college field trips. Maria coordinates college guest speakers and helps students register for their college courses.

Phil Pacia, Sonora High School

Phil Pacia began teaching for the District 14 years ago. Phil teaches agriculture at Sonora High School (SOHS) and is the department chair. Phil completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture education and a teaching credential from California State University, Fresno and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from California State University, Fullerton. Phil is the president of the California Agriculture Teacher Association (CATA) Section. Principal Adam Bailey states, "Mr. Pacia is an amazing instructor in the classroom, puts in a tremendous amount of time for students and is one of the influential teacher leaders on the Sonora Campus."

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Andrew Johnson, Sonora High School

Andrew Johnson began his career with the District six years ago. He is currently an instructional aide at Sonora High School (SOHS) working with special education students in the CBI program. Andrew is the head coach for Boys' Tennis, Volleyball, and the JV Soccer team at FUHS. Andrew earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Concordia, Irvine. Since Andrew has been the head varsity volleyball coach, the volleyball team won the league title for the first time in 32 years, reaching CIF Finals and the second round of the State playoffs. As the JV Boys' Soccer coach, the team has won one league title and three 2nd place league finishes. The Boys' Tennis team has been named La Habra City Champs all six years he has coached.



Campus Teachers and Site Classified Employees of the Year

Cristian Bueno Ramirez, Sunny Hills High School

Cristian Bueno Ramirez joined the District in 2013. She currently teaches math at Sunny Hills High School (SHHS). Cristian earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics and Spanish and a Master of Arts degree in Mathematics from California State University, Fullerton. Cristian has taught Algebra 1, Algebra 2 Honors, PreCalculus, IB Math SL, and AVID. Her classroom is filled with love and passion for learning in every student interaction. Cristian is the advisor for the Aspiring Teacher Club and is involved with the AVID program. Cristian has a positive and outgoing personality and everyone she comes in contact with can see her enthusiasm and passion for teaching.



Sonya Joyce, Sunny Hills High School

Sonya Joyce began working for the District in September 2017 as the Technology Technician at Sunny Hills High School (SHHS). Sonya earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Information Systems at DeVry University. Sonya enjoys problem solving and finding solutions, and is always willing to help with any technology problem. Sonya's immediate supervisor states, "I have been approached by multiple staff members throughout the course of the year who have expressed their appreciation for Sonya's work ethic and professionalism." Sonya takes pride in ensuring that the management of technology at SHHS is flawless. She is a team player, committed to excellence, and extremely organized.



Kellie Fernandez, Troy High School

Kellie Fernandez began working for the District two years ago. Kellie is a teacher in the NJROTC Program at Troy High School (TRHS). Kellie earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services Management from the University of Phoenix; a single subject teaching credential from Fresno Pacific University; and a Master's degree in Human Resource Management from the University of Phoenix. Kellie served for twenty years in the U.S. Navy and has applied her skill and experience with the U.S. Navy Sea Perch underwater robotic program to the NJROTC program at TRHS. Kellie is an excellent role model to female students who wish to pursue a career in the military.

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Stephanie Rosner, Troy High School

Stephanie Rosner began working for the District in December of 2015 as a Senior Records Clerk assisting the Assistant Principal of Pupil Services and the Counseling Department. Stephanie is currently the Registrar at Troy High School responsible for student enrollment, overseeing student cumulative files, inputting student transcripts and grade changes. Stephanie earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance from California State University, Fullerton. Stephanie is known for her friendliness, smile, and compassion. You can always count on Stephanie when you need help.



Message from the Superintendent

Our 2018/19 Teachers and Classified Employees of the Year are outstanding representatives of the high quality that characterizes our District. It is 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 classified 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 "Scott Scambray".

*Scott Scambray, Ed.D.
Superintendent*

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Fullerton Joint Union High School District