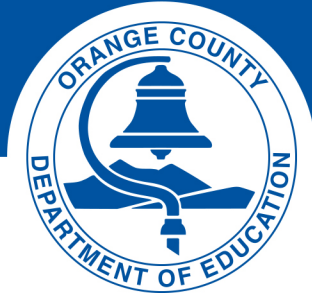


NEWS RELEASE

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2019 Orange County Teachers of the Year ceremony to honor top local educators

Annual event will recognize 63 of OC's brightest teaching stars at the Disneyland Hotel

COSTA MESA, Calif. – Sixty-three educators from Orange County school districts and community colleges will be honored Friday, Nov. 2 at a special dinner celebration coordinated by the Orange County Department of Education.

SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union will serve as the premier sponsor of the 2019 Orange County Teachers of the Year event, which will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim. International business leader and philanthropist Bill Gross, reprising his role as legacy sponsor, is providing cash awards to each of the nominees in recognition of the critical work they do to support students.

“Orange County’s teachers encourage, support and equip young learners to be tomorrow’s leaders,” Orange County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Al Mijares said. “But their contributions go even deeper. Besides teaching rich content and using superlative pedagogy, they build character and instill students with social and emotional skills to help them manage life’s challenges and establish deep roots in their communities. We proudly recognize those who elevate their profession, enabling young people to believe in themselves while empowering them to make a difference.”

The six 2019 Orange County Teachers of the Year finalists who were announced in May will receive special recognition at the ceremony. They are Andrea Calvo of Ladera Vista Junior High School in the Fullerton School District; Archana S. Jain of Irvine High School in the Irvine Unified School District; David Pino of Junipero Serra High School in the Capistrano Unified School District; Jodi Christine Young of Huntington Beach High School in the Huntington Beach Union High School District; Laura Zellmer of Ethel Dwyer Middle School in the Huntington Beach City School District; and Kari Tucker, Ph.D., of Irvine Valley College in the South Orange County Community College District.

Each of this year’s honorees will receive a complimentary table for 10 and a prize package courtesy of SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union. In addition, each of the six finalists will receive \$15,000, each semifinalist will receive \$3,000 and all other nominees will receive \$900 thanks to the generosity of Bill Gross, who has contributed more than \$3 million to the Orange County Teachers of the Year program since it was founded in 1992.

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