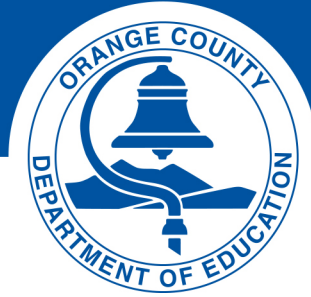


NEWS RELEASE

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Top educators to be honored at 2018 Orange County Teachers of the Year event

Annual ceremony presented by OCDE, sponsors will take place at Disneyland® Hotel

COSTA MESA, Calif. – Sixty-two educators from Orange County school districts and community colleges will be recognized on Tuesday, Oct. 24 at a dinner celebration coordinated by the Orange County Department of Education.

SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union will once again serve as the premier sponsor of the 2018 Orange County Teachers of the Year event, which begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim. As the legacy sponsor, the Dr. James Hines Foundation will present cash awards to each of the nominees to honor the important work they do to promote the success of all students by instilling pride, hope and respect in academically stimulating environments.

This year's finalists are: Barbara Bennett of North Orange Continuing Education in the North Orange County Community College District; James Blackie of Horace Ensign Intermediate School in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District; Gregory Paul Gardiner of Edison High School in the Huntington Beach Union High School District; Vincent Saporito of College View Elementary School in the Ocean View School District; Tiffany Badger of El Dorado High School in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District; and Carlos Primiani of Leo Carrillo Elementary School in the Garden Grove Unified School District.

"Orange County is home to some of the world's finest teachers, and their contributions go far beyond transmitting 21st-century skills and knowledge," said Orange County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Al Mijares. "On this day, we get to honor the best our profession has to offer, spotlighting teachers who not only showcase pedagogical mastery, but also exemplify the theme of this year's event, 'Compassion, Kindness and Character.'"

Each honored educator will receive a table for 10 at the event courtesy of SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union, along with prize packages provided by SchoolsFirst and the Disneyland Resort. Additionally, the Dr. James Hines Foundation has contributed more than \$150,000 in cash awards for this year's nominees. Since 1992, the foundation has contributed more than \$3 million to the Orange County Teachers of the Year program.

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