



Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Superintendent of Schools
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SCOE Announces 2021-22 Solano Educators of the Year Winners

FAIRFIELD, CA –Solano County Office of Education announced the 2021-22 Educators of the Year winners during the virtual celebration held for all nominees on April 27th. Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson, announced Andre Finn from Benicia Unified School District's (BUSD) as Solano's Classified School Employee of the Year and Laura Roberts from Vacaville Unified School District as Solano's Teacher of the Year.

"The dedication and excellence demonstrated by each nominee this year was inspiring. Andre Finn and Laura Roberts are shining examples of the incredible talent, commitment and passion for helping students that Solano County educators possess. The bar has been set very high by these two individuals, and I know they will continue to accomplish remarkable things for their school communities," noted Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson.

Andre Finn, a skilled trades technician, has been with BUSD for 16 years. The letter of recommendation from BUSD Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Khushwinder Gill, Ed.D stated, "Mr. Finn's encourages and provides opportunities for his fellow employees." The letter went on to say, "His services are countless and outstanding. He has continually proven to be a terrific asset to Benicia Unified School District. He has worked very hard to motivate others and has the best interest of the district. He is a diligent and committed employee and leader, who works very hard to support all schools and departments achieve success in their work."

Laura Roberts teaches U.S. history and ethnic studies and has been teaching for 11 years, 8 1/2 years in her current position. She serves on the district's Equity Task Force and teaches the ethnic studies course she created. A letter of recommendation from Assistant Superintendent, Educational Options and Supports, Sasha Begell, states, "Ms. Roberts is now well into the 2020-21 school year and she is teaching this ethnic studies course, infused with technology and methodology that targets virtual learning. She has not only created a class that allows students to connect with each other and see themselves and their history in the curriculum, she did it by pivoting her teaching expertise to a virtual platform during a pandemic and a time of political and social unrest. This type of in-the-moment responsiveness around emotional and difficult topics is not to be understated. We are so fortunate to have Ms. Roberts as an educator, a colleague, and a change agent in Vacaville Unified."

Nominations from districts and charter schools were reviewed by a blue ribbon committee consisting of past district, county, and state teacher and classified winners. The nominee selected as Solano County's Teacher of the Year will go on to represent Solano County in the California Teacher of the Year Program.



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Visit [Solano County Office of Education's website](#) to view the virtual 2020-21 Solano County Educators of the Year Celebration featuring video segments of each nominee. For more information, please contact Ken Scarberry at (707) 646-7603 or kscarberry@solanocoe.net.

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Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) provides leadership, support, and fiscal oversight for charter schools and Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo school districts which serve approximately 63,000 students. Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson is elected by voters of Solano County. The Superintendent is a state constitutional officer who serves as the chief executive officer of SCOE and as a liaison between local school districts and the state.