



**Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Superintendent of Schools**

5100 Business Center Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534-1658

707.399.4400 ★ [www.solanocoe.net](http://www.solanocoe.net)

## **NEWS – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** May 1, 2019  
**Organization:** Solano County Office of Education  
**Contact:** Ken Scarberry, Director Youth Development  
**Telephone:** 707-646-7601  
**E-Mail:** [kscarberry@solanocoe.net](mailto:kscarberry@solanocoe.net)

### **O'Reilly and Stilwell named Solano County's Educators of the Year**

SUISUN CITY — Tuesday evening, Benicia High School Teacher Matt O'Reilly was recognized as Solano County's 2019-20 Teacher of the Year and DJ Stilwell, Jean Callison Elementary School Custodian in Vacaville Unified School District, as the County's Classified Employee of the Year.

"Public schools are essential to our future and I always come away both inspired and optimistic by the collaboration and dedication these educators bring to their sites each and every day." Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson said of O'Reilly, Stilwell, and the 12 other candidates recently acknowledged by their school district. "On behalf of our students, families, and community, I extend our heartfelt gratitude for all that you do and your selfless commitment to the students whose lives you touch."

The Annual Solano County Educators of the Year event honored teachers and paraeducators as well as school support staff in child nutrition, support services, and security who give their all to support student achievement, educational innovation, and community involvement in Solano County schools.

During the Tuesday evening event, Solano County Office of Education(SCOE) also honored 12 school district and SCOE employees who had been named Educator of the Year earlier in the year: Marv Magallanes, Workability Coordinator, Benicia High School/Community Outreach, Benicia Unified School District; Mia Lodigiani, Kindergarten Teacher, Tremont Elementary School, Dixon Unified School District; Xochilt Quitugua, Office Coordinator, Tremont Elementary School, Dixon Unified School District; Barbara Niehoff, 3rd Grade Teacher, Fairview Elementary School, Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District; Betty Gokey, Child Nutrition Services Lead 1, Public Safety Academy, Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District; Colleen Van Nes-Fahey, Preschool—Adult Psychologist, Serves All Solano County Schools, Solano County Office of Education; Jordan Hunt, Senior Human Resources Analyst, Human Resources, Solano County Office of Education; Melanie Green, K-6 Intervention Specialist, Cambridge Elementary School, Travis Unified School District; Connie Nichols, Food Service Worker, Vanden High School, Travis Unified School District; Lori Lawn, K-4 Response to Intervention Coordinator, Sierra Vista K-8 School, Vacaville Unified School District; Jennifer Castro, 5th Grade Teacher, Dan Mini Elementary School, Vallejo City Unified School District; and Alicia Dorton, Elementary Office Manager, Beverly Hills Elementary School, Vallejo City Unified School District.

For more information about Solano County's Educators of the Year Program, please contact Ken Scarberry at (707) 646-7601 or [kscarberry@solanocoe.net](mailto:kscarberry@solanocoe.net).

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Solano County Teacher of the Year  
Matt O'Reilly, Benicia High School, Benicia Unified School District  
Visual & Performing Arts: Broadcasting Art Production, Graphic Design

Left to Right:

Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Solano County Office of Education Superintendent of Schools; Matt O'Reilly, 2019-20  
Solano County Teacher of the Year; Linda Montenegro, Brandman University, Campus Director; and Sarita  
Sudduth, Travis Credit Union Branch Manager



Solano County Classified School Employee of the Year  
DJ Stilwell, Custodian  
Jean Callison Elementary, Vacaville Unified School District

Left to Right:

Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Solano County Office of Education Superintendent of Schools; DJ Stilwell, 2019-20  
Solano County Classified School Employee of the Year; and Linda Montenegro, Brandman University,  
Campus Director



Large group picture.



Top: Left to Right: Classified School Employees of the Year: Jordan Hunt, Solano County Office of Education; DJ Stilwell, Vacaville Unified School District; Marv Magallanes, Benicia Unified School District; Betty Gokey, Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District; Alicia Dorton, Vallejo City Unified School District; Connie Nichols, Travis Unified School District; and Xochilt Quitugua, Dixon Unified School District;

Bottom: Left to Right: Teachers of the Year: Colleen Van Nes-Fahey, Solano County Office of Education; Lori Lawn, Vacaville Unified School District; Matt O'Reilly, Benicia Unified School District; Barbara Niehoff, Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District; Jennifer Castro, Vallejo City Unified School District; Melanie Green, Travis Unified School District; and Mia Lodigiani, Dixon Unified School District.