



**Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Superintendent of Schools**  
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## **NEWS RELEASE - For immediate release.**

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### **Solano County Office of Education Hosts Educator of the Year Awards**

**Fairfield, CA-** Last night, Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) hosted the annual Solano County Educators of the Year celebration at Yin Ranch. The evening honored the Classified Employees of the Year and the Certificated (teachers and other credentialed staff) Employees of the Year from Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo unified school districts as well as SCOE.

Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson spoke to attendees saying, "Our Solano County educators are truly amazing. This celebration is certainly one of the most inspiring recognitions we conduct throughout the year. We are proud of all the school employees highlighted and are honored to recognize individuals making public education in Solano County great."

Awardees for the classified and certificated employees of the year from each school district were honored with the traditional Educators of the Year apple award, gifts made by the construction trades class students at Golden Hills Community School, and certificates of achievement from SCOE and Congressman Garamendi. Students from the Solano Youth Coalition shared their perspectives on the powerful and positive impact that school employees can have for students.

#### **School District Honorees for Classified Employee of the Year**

Benicia Unified School District	Peter Sharpe
Dixon Unified School District	Arturo Hernandez
Solano County Office of Education	Dave Candelo
Travis Unified School District	Kimberly Koelzer
Vacaville Unified School District	Terry Dunkelburger
Vallejo City Unified School District	Rafaela Alvarez

#### **School District Honorees for Certificated Employee of the Year**

Benicia Unified School District	Bonnie Ramirez
Dixon Unified School District	Samantha Camblin
Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District	Chris Romo
Solano County Office of Education	Christine Velamar
Travis Unified School District	Kimberly Hopfer
Vacaville Unified School District	Therese Shook
Vallejo City Unified School District	Jeannette Starring

The evening culminated with the announcement of the certificated and classified awardees for all of Solano County, selected by a blue-ribbon committee comprised of past honorees. The committee named Dave Candelo from Solano County Office of Education as the Solano County Classified Employee of the Year and Jeanette Starring from Vallejo City Unified as the Solano County Certificated Employee of the Year.



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**Solano County Classified Employee of the Year Dave Candelo** was introduced at the event stating: “Dave’s passion for students is really what drives his quality of work in everything he does. He is considerate of the impact on students and staff when going about any work he does. Dave serves all Solano County Office of Education schools and his professionalism and happy demeanor have everyone wanting Dave to be part of their school culture, and he *is* a big part of SCOE’s culture. Dave’s workmanship and overall desire to help others has earned him the respect of SCOE employees throughout the organization. Dave is a model employee that exemplifies SCOE’s guiding principles: collaborate successfully, support each other, and demonstrate leadership.”

**Solano County Certificated Employee of the Year Jeanette Starring** was introduced by these words: “Jeanette teaches multiple subjects to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Dan Mini Elementary school in Vallejo City Unified School District. She has been teaching for 30 years, 10 in her current position. The level of ongoing support Jeannette provides not only to her students, but also their families, is what stands out. She utilizes all resources and continues to encourage attendance, engagement, and positive self-worth. She provides individualized intervention support and incentives for her students that continue to build a positive relationship between home and school. It is evident that she understands the importance of addressing the social emotional needs of our students in addition to their academic needs. She creates a balance between the two that does not diminish one or the other.”

Tribute videos for district awardees and the countywide winners have been posted on the Solano County Office of Educations website at <https://www.solanocoe.net>.

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Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) provides leadership, support, and fiscal oversight for Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo school districts which serve approximately 64,000 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.