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Solano County Honors Outstanding Educators at Annual Awards Celebration

Vacaville, CA – On the evening of May 6, 2025, educators, community leaders, and families gathered at Sunrise Event Center in Vacaville to celebrate the Solano County Educator of the Year Awards. This annual event, hosted by Solano County Office of Education (SCOE), honors the remarkable contributions of local teachers and classified school employees who go above and beyond to support students, schools, and communities.

The evening recognized outstanding nominees from across Solano County's school districts:

Classified School Employee of the Year Nominees:

- Michele Wade – Benicia Unified School District
- Lynne Posedel – Dixon Unified School District
- Patty Parra – Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District
- Traneka Ross – Solano County Office of Education
- Lorena Abreu – Travis Unified School District
- Anthony Fazzare – Vacaville Unified School District
- Abigail Miller – Vallejo City Unified School District

Teacher of the Year Nominees:

- Jeffrey Bouschet – Benicia Unified School District
- Mayte Gudino – Dixon Unified School District
- Daniel Brown – ELITE Public Schools
- Heather Merodio – Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District
- Maricela Schunk – Solano County Office of Education
- Mallorie Skog – Travis Unified School District
- Renee Yeasted – Vacaville Unified School District
- Charlotte Sanchez – Vallejo City Unified School District

"Each outstanding individual recognized at this celebration is an essential key in unlocking endless possibilities for students. Whether in the classroom, on the playground, or behind the scenes, every honoree plays a critical role in helping students see great futures for themselves." – Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Solano County Superintendent of Schools.

Travis Credit Union (TCU) is a long-standing sponsor of the recognition event for Solano educators. TCU's Steward Pimienta helped present the trophies to the countywide winners who were selected by a blue-ribbon committee composed of past honorees from across Solano County.

The 2025 Solano County Teacher of the Year is Maricela Schrunck, a Solano County Office of Education special education teacher who works at Gretchen Higgins Elementary. Known for her unwavering advocacy for students with extensive support needs, Maricela is celebrated for creating an inclusive, nurturing classroom that honors each child's journey. Families and colleagues alike praise her compassionate, collaborative approach and commitment to ensuring that every student, regardless of ability, feels valued and capable.

The honor of Solano County Classified School Employee of the Year was awarded to Anthony Fazzare, maintenance foreman for Vacaville Unified School District (VUSD). A former VUSD student with deep community ties, Anthony exemplifies excellence in leadership and service. He is known for his strategic planning, work ethic, and high standards for safety and quality. Through his dedication, Anthony helps create safe and welcoming school environments that support both learning and well-being.

Students across Solano County contributed to the recognition event. SCOE's Solano Youth Coalition students shared their perspectives on the positive difference that each individual on a school campus makes for students. Students from the Golden Hills Community School construction trades class made wooden plant boxes for each honoree, and students from Vacaville High School's floral design class made boutonnieres and corsages for each honoree.

Certificates of achievement from state and federal legislators were presented alongside the student projects to each nominee. Schrunck and Fazzare will also receive a \$1,000 grant from Travis Credit Union that they can give to the academic program of their choice.

Links to photos and videos honoring the countywide winner and all nominees can be found on Solano County Office of Education's website www.solanocoe.net and social media pages.

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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 60,000 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.