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NEWS RELEASE - For immediate release

Date: March 10, 2024

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SCOE Accepting Nominations for Early Childhood Educator of The Year

Solano County, CA- Solano County Office of Education (SCOE), the Solano Child Care Planning Council and other community partners are hosting the second annual Solano Early Childhood Educator of the Year award program honoring early childhood educators who demonstrate excellence in the care and education of Solano's young children.

Solano County Office of Education encourages parents, guardians, educators and community members who live or work in Solano County to nominate early childhood educators who have made a positive difference in their communities. Any Solano County early learning and care provider serving children ages infant to preschool may be nominated. The recognition program includes teachers, assistants, paraeducators, food service staff, transportation staff, school site administrators and family child care owner/directors.

Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson remarked, "Early learning educators are crucial in ensuring a strong beginning for our youngest learners. They establish the groundwork for future academic achievements, nurture social and emotional development, and inspire a genuine love for learning."

"It was such an honor to be nominated and chosen as one of the first Early Childhood Educators of the year in its inaugural year. This recognition for all of those who educate, care for, and are passionate for the youngest members of our community keeps us all going for the children and families we serve," remarked Susan Smith, the Deputy Director of Child Start Inc.

The nomination period will be open through April 1, 2024, at 5:00 pm. Nomination forms can be <u>found online</u> or by contacting the Solano County Office of Education at (707) 399-4452. The Solano Early Childhood Educator of the Year honorees will be announced in early June and will be honored on Friday, June 21, 2024, at the Joe Nelson Community Center.

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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 60,300 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.