

LASSEN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

EDUCATOR GALA

Excellence in
Education



Lassen County Office of Education
Supporting Students for the Future

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026



MESSAGE FROM County Superintendent of Schools

Tonight, we gather beneath the lights to celebrate the people who make the story of education possible. Like the unforgettable moments in a great film, the impact of educators is lasting, meaningful, and often felt long after the scene has passed. Behind every student success, every breakthrough, and every dream beginning to take shape, there is a teacher, mentor, administrator, support staff member, volunteer, or community partner helping guide the way.



Your presence here this evening makes this celebration truly special. Tonight is an opportunity to recognize those whose dedication, creativity, and compassion continue to shape the future of our students and our community. Education is more than lessons and classrooms, it is the belief that every student deserves someone who sees their potential and encourages them to step into their own story with confidence.

Like directors behind the scenes, educators help students discover their strengths, navigate challenges, and find the courage to take center stage in their own lives. Some moments are bold and life-changing, while others are quiet acts of encouragement that may never receive applause, but all of them matter deeply. The work happening in our schools each day is built on patience, heart, and the unwavering commitment to helping students grow.

Tonight, we also celebrate the incredible support of families, friends, and community partners. Your encouragement and partnership help create the foundation that allows our students and schools to thrive. Together, we are building something bigger than any one individual. We are creating opportunities, inspiring futures, and supporting the next generation as they write the story of who they will become.

As we celebrate tonight's honorees and nominees, let us remember that education is one of the most powerful movies ever made. And while our students may be the stars of the future, it is all of you who help light the stage. Thank you for being part of this evening and for the role you play in supporting students for the future.

Patricia A. Gunderson



THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 SPONSORS!



SCHOOLSFIRST
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Serving school employees and their
families in California

We are grateful to SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union for their generous support of the 2026 Educator Gala. As a dedicated advocate for California school employees and their families, SchoolsFirst continues to invest in the educational community through financial services, outreach, and community partnerships. Their ongoing commitment to supporting educators aligns perfectly with the spirit of this celebration as we honor those who make a lasting impact on students and schools across Lassen County.

Keenan
Associates

We are grateful to Keenan & Associates for their generous support of the 2026 Educator Gala. Through their commitment to innovative solutions and enduring principles, Keenan continues to support schools and public agencies by providing trusted expertise in risk management, claims services, technology, and budgetary solutions. Their dedication to serving those who support our communities reflects the spirit of this celebration and their ongoing investment in education and the well-being of our schools.



AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Fellow educators, parents, students, and community members were invited to submit nominations for the Excellence in Education Award. The nominations shared stories of impact, innovation, and commitment, serving as a testament to the profound influence educators have on shaping lives.



The star is presented as a symbol of excellence, inspiration, and lasting impact. Just as stars shine brightly and help guide the way, this award recognizes educators whose dedication, leadership, and service illuminate the path for students, colleagues, and the community. These individuals go above and beyond to encourage growth, spark curiosity, and create opportunities for success. The star represents not only outstanding achievement, but also the hope, guidance, and positive influence that great educators bring into the lives of others every day.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

AWARDEES



Lassen Community College has been a valued supporter of education throughout Lassen County, helping create opportunities for students through collaboration, workforce development, and continued support for local schools.

Through partnerships, career and technical education opportunities, community involvement, and support for students, educators, and families, they have played an important role in strengthening the connection between education and future success. Their ongoing commitment to Lassen County students and schools continues to make a meaningful impact throughout the community.



Lassen County Wrap Around is recognized for its unwavering commitment to supporting students and families through compassion, advocacy, and family-centered care. Through crisis response, family support, and connections to essential services, this team works tirelessly to help create safe, stable environments where students can succeed.

Their dedication to supporting the whole child and strengthening families continues to make a meaningful and lasting impact throughout our community. They consistently go above and beyond to ensure families feel supported, heard, and connected during times of need. Their compassion, professionalism, and commitment to student well-being have made them a trusted and valued partner in Lassen County.



WORKABILITY & TRANSITIONAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

AWARDEES

The WorkAbility Transition Partnership Program is a vocational program for students with disabilities, designed to prepare them for successful employment and lifelong learning. The Lassen County Office of Education Student Employment Program would like to recognize the following businesses for their partnership and ongoing support of inclusive workforce opportunities.



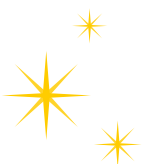
Susanville Ace Hardware is being recognized for its lasting support of students through mentorship, encouragement, and hands-on employment opportunities. By creating a welcoming and supportive workplace, their team helps students develop valuable job skills, confidence, responsibility, and independence. Their commitment to inclusion and student growth has made a lasting impact on the lives of the students they serve.



Tractor Supply Co. is being recognized for its dedication to mentorship, hands-on training, and support of student development. By offering students valuable workplace experiences in a respectful and encouraging environment, they help prepare young people for future success while fostering confidence, teamwork, and responsibility. Their partnership demonstrates the powerful impact community organizations can have in helping students thrive.



Lassen County Fairgrounds is being honored for its outstanding partnership to support student success. Through providing meaningful work experiences and a positive learning environment, they help students gain real-world job skills, build confidence, and prepare for future employment opportunities. Their continued support reflects a genuine investment in both students and the Lassen County community.



VOLUNTEERS

AWARDEES

ANGELA BRANDT
Johnstonville

Angela is a valued volunteer in the kindergarten classroom, spending time each week helping students during center activities and daily learning routines. Her gentle encouragement and warm demeanor help students feel confident and comfortable in the classroom. She brings patience, positivity, and a genuine desire to help children succeed, making her an important part of the Johnstonville learning community.

AMANDA
BUSTAMANTE
Johnstonville

Amanda plays an important role in supporting the classroom through her ongoing volunteer service and devotion to student success. By assisting with small-group activities and providing additional encouragement throughout the day, she helps create opportunities for students to grow both academically and socially. Her dependable presence and caring attitude are appreciated by both students and staff.

KATHERINE GUESS
Johnstonville

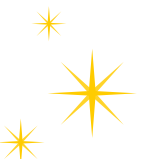
Katherine is a dedicated parent volunteer who faithfully supports the classroom each Tuesday and Thursday. Her caring and supportive nature creates a positive learning environment where students feel encouraged and valued. Her enthusiasm for student learning is evident in every interaction, and her genuine love for helping in the classroom makes a meaningful impact on both students and staff.

LINDSEY
CHAMPIEUX
Meadow View

Lindsey generously gives her time, energy, and support to students, staff, and families throughout the Meadow View community. Through her leadership and involvement in organizing school events and supporting classrooms, she helps create strong connections between families and the school. Her kindness, willingness to help, and compassion to student success are evident in everything she does, and her positive impact continues to strengthen the entire school community.

KELLYN SIMMS
Shaffer

Kellyn is a dedicated PTO volunteer who is always willing to step in and help whenever needed. Her generosity and commitment to the school community are evident through the many ways she gives back to students, staff, and families. From organizing purposeful fundraisers to continually finding ways to support and uplift the school, her kindness and dedication make a continued positive effect on the entire community.





CLASSIFIED STAFF

AWARDEES

PRIMA CASTRO
Shaffer

Prima has been a valued part of the Shaffer family for many years, consistently demonstrating dedication and care for both students and staff. A true pillar within the school community, she models kindness, respect, and compassion in every interaction while helping create a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment. As one of the first faces students see each morning, her calm presence and positive influence have made a lasting impact on the culture of Shaffer School.

TOSHIRO SANDEI
Susanville School District

Toshiro is known for greeting students and staff each day with a warm smile and a cheerful “Happy Monday,” no matter the day of the week. More than a custodian, he is a mentor, role model, and trusted source of support whose kindness and positive attitude make a lasting impact on the school community. His dedication extends far beyond the school day, always working to ensure the campus is welcoming and ready for students and staff, reflecting the pride and care he brings to everything he does.

JESSICA COOPER
Shaffer

Jessica has made a meaningful impact through her support of 4th and 5th grade students and her leadership in the after-school program. She consistently demonstrates patience, compassion, and genuine care while creating a safe and supportive environment where students feel valued and encouraged. Her kindness, empathy, and ability to build strong relationships have positively influenced the confidence, growth, and success of the students she serves each day.

NICOLE HALMOS
Sierra Primary

Nicole is deeply involved in the school community, actively supporting Site Council, the Expanded Learning Program, and numerous school events throughout the year. As both a staff member and parent, she consistently goes above and beyond to support students, families, and staff in any way needed. Her kindness, teamwork, and willingness to connect with others help strengthen the school community, and her dedication and positive attitude make her an incredible asset to Sierra Primary.

BRANDY OTTERSON
Meadow View

Brandy brings positivity and encouragement to campus each day, always greeting students and staff with a smile. She works closely with students with disabilities in both one-on-one and group settings, creating a supportive environment where students feel valued, cared for, and successful. Her contagious energy and enthusiasm also shine through in the after-school program, where her kindness, patience, and ability to connect with students make a lasting impact on the entire school community.

PAM STENINGER
Shaffer

Pam is a caring and dependable presence within the school community, supporting students, staff, and families in countless ways each day. From managing the front office with professionalism and compassion to coordinating student support programs and assisting with special education services, she consistently goes above and beyond to meet the needs of students. Her dedication also extends beyond her daily responsibilities through coaching athletics, supporting extracurricular activities, organizing substitutes, and helping with school events, making her an invaluable part of the school community.



CLASSIFIED STAFF (CONTINUED)

AWARDEES

ILLIA PERKINS
Diamond View

Illia has been a steady and trusted presence at Diamond View for many years, building strong relationships with students, staff, and families alike. She brings compassion, reliability, and a student-centered approach to everything she does, always making herself available to support others however she can. Her commitment to the school community and the countless lives she has influenced through her encouragement and care have left an enduring mark on Diamond View School.

MARIA SANCHEZ
Shaffer

Maria is always hard at work ensuring the classrooms, bathrooms, lunchroom, and campus are clean, safe, and welcoming for students and staff. During lunch each day, she goes above and beyond by helping younger students get settled, assisting them with meals, and keeping the lunch area organized and running smoothly. Her dependability, positive attitude, and genuine care for students makes a lasting impact on the school community, and Shaffer is truly fortunate to have someone so committed to caring for both our students and campus.

LEANNA WOOD
McKinley

Leanna serves as a steady and dependable foundation within the school community, providing consistency, organization, and support through years of change and transition. Her leadership, attention to detail, and willingness to support others help create a welcoming and stable environment for students, families, and staff. As a trusted resource for new staff and families alike, her reliability, commitment, and genuine care have made a lasting and invaluable impact on the entire school community.



DISTRICT RECOGNITION

AWARDEE

WESTWOOD UNIFIED

Westwood Unified School District has continued to demonstrate a strong commitment to providing transformative opportunities for students in a small rural community. With a focus on academic achievement, career readiness, student engagement, and lifelong learning, the district works to ensure students are supported both inside and outside the classroom. Their mission emphasizes preparing students to become productive citizens while fostering strong partnerships with families and the community.

Known for their consistency, leadership, and supportive approach, the staff have become a trusted and valued presence in their schools and community. Their steadfastness to student success, positive school culture, and rural education continues to make a lasting difference in the lives of the students and families they serve.

Tonight, we are proud to recognize this District for their continued commitment to excellence in education.

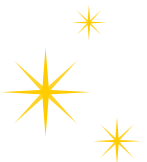
ADMINISTRATOR

AWARDEE

DEDE HEIMBIGNER

Dede has demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication, and vision in creating a positive and supportive school culture where both students and staff can thrive. Through perseverance, creativity, and a commitment to doing what is best for students, she has embraced impactful change and implemented systems that promote safety, accountability, and student success.

Her leadership has transformed the school into a place where students feel welcomed, supported, and excited to learn, while staff members feel valued, encouraged, and united by a shared purpose. By fostering strong relationships, open communication, and a culture of collaboration, she has helped improve academics, attendance, behavior, and overall school climate. Known for her compassion, professionalism, positivity, and ability to inspire others, she continues to make a lasting and unforgettable impact on the entire school community.





CERTIFICATED STAFF

AWARDEES

KATELYN CYPRIAN
Shaffer

Katelyn “Katie” creates a warm and welcoming classroom where students feel supported, valued, and cared for each day. Through engaging lessons, hands-on activities, and creative learning experiences, she inspires curiosity and encourages students to think outside the box. Her passion for student success and willingness to support others make a positive impact throughout the entire school community.

THERESA HARKNESS
Thompson Peak Charter

Theresa has an exceptional ability to connect with both students and families, creating a classroom environment where students feel safe, supported, and encouraged to do their best each day. Her kindness and compassion are evident in every interaction, and she consistently works to make learning engaging and accessible for all students. Through her dedication, positive attitude, and commitment to student success, she makes a meaningful impact throughout the entire school community.

JON LANDERMAN
Lassen High

Jon has made a lasting contribution to students and the school community through his leadership, service, and commitment to student success. He provides strong academic and individualized support while coordinating services for students across three high schools to ensure their needs are met. Beyond the classroom, he consistently steps in wherever support is needed and has expanded opportunities for student involvement through clubs that encourage leadership, engagement, and personal growth, making a meaningful impact throughout the school community.

ANGELIA HARRIS
Lassen High

Angelia demonstrates an exceptional commitment to students through strong communication, high expectations, and genuine care for those she teaches. She consistently goes above and beyond to support students and families while creating a positive learning environment where students feel encouraged, confident, and successful. Her dedication, compassion, and commitment to student growth leave a meaningful impact both academically and personally throughout the school community.

STACY KREUTZER
Westwood Unified

Stacy has shown exceptional commitment to supporting students through compassion, encouragement, and genuine care. Through her work as a virtual school psychologist, she creates a safe and supportive environment where students feel heard, valued, and understood. Her ability to adapt to each student’s unique needs while helping them navigate challenges both at school and at home has made a meaningful impact on students, families, and staff alike. Her work ethic goes far beyond a job, reflecting a deep commitment to the well-being and success of every student she serves.

BARBARA MURPHY
Meadow View

Barbara demonstrates exceptional compassion, patience, and heart in supporting students with a wide range of learning needs. She creates a safe and supportive environment where every student feels valued, understood, and encouraged to succeed. Through calm leadership, strong collaboration with staff and families, and a genuine commitment to advocating for students, she consistently goes above and beyond to support both academic and personal growth. Her positive attitude, innovative approach, and unwavering care has made a difference on students, families, and the entire school community.



CERTIFICATED STAFF (CONTINUED)

AWARDEES

CHRISTY ROSE
Lassen High

Christy has dedicated more than three decades to serving students and the Lassen County community with professionalism, integrity, and compassion. She is known for her strong leadership, deep knowledge, and unwavering commitment to supporting students both inside and outside the classroom. Through her encouragement, guidance, and willingness to go above and beyond whenever needed, she creates a positive learning environment where students feel supported and motivated to succeed. Her dedication to education and genuine care for others have made a significant and enduring contribution to countless students, families, and members of the community.

CALLIOPE ROSE
Janesville Elementary

Calliope has made an inspiring impact across the Janesville Elementary community through hard work, perseverance, and genuine care for students. More than a school counselor, she has built strong and trusting relationships with students, creating a safe and supportive environment where students feel comfortable seeking guidance and encouragement. Her positive attitude, willingness to help others, and commitment to supporting students both academically and emotionally have made her an invaluable part of the school community.

MICHELLE PFINGSTON
Long Valley Charter - Portola

Michelle is being recognized for her innovative approach to education and unwavering commitment to student success. She consistently goes above and beyond to create special learning experiences that meet the unique needs of every student. Through continued professional growth and the integration of modern instructional strategies, she helps students build confidence, overcome challenges, and prepare for the future. Her compassion, creativity, and dedication to supporting all learners has played a meaningful role in shaping both students and the school community.

JESSICA SOLOMON
Janesville Elementary

Jessica has demonstrated exceptional commitment to students, families, and the school community through compassion, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to education. Her ability to build relationships with students creates a classroom environment where every child feels valued, supported, and encouraged to succeed. As both a colleague and educator, she consistently demonstrates collaboration, wisdom, and genuine care for others, making an enduring contribution far beyond academics. Her loyalty to supporting student growth and fostering a positive school culture has touched countless lives and made them an invaluable part of the school community.

RACHEL TURNQUIST
Shaffer

Rachel is an exceptional educator who combines high expectations with genuine care and support for every student. Her passion for teaching and deep knowledge help students feel confident, challenged, and prepared for future success. Beyond the classroom, she willingly supports colleagues, provides instructional leadership, and helps strengthen learning opportunities across the school community. Her dedication, collaboration, and commitment to student growth have set a standard of excellence that inspires both students and staff alike.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

AWARDEE

JAY MCKENNON

Jay is a lifelong public servant whose career has had a legacy of influence on transportation, education, and workforce development across Lassen County. Since 1993, he has served as a Drivers Training Instructor for Lassen College, a role he continues today. Over the course of his career, he has trained thousands of student drivers as well as future and current school bus drivers and instructors, strengthening transportation safety throughout the region.

His decades of service, leadership, and dedication have made him a true “driving force” in Lassen County. His contributions span generations of students, employees, and community members, and his impact on transportation safety and education is both extraordinary and enduring.

COUNTYWIDE IMPACT

AWARDEES

AMBER AKIWO

Amber exemplifies compassion, professionalism, and a deep commitment to supporting students and families across Lassen County schools. She consistently goes above and beyond, creating sincere connections with students and ensuring they feel safe, supported, and valued. In addition to her many responsibilities, she serves on the Street Data Team and recently stepped in to provide wraparound support services during the absence of a site Wellness Coach. Her care, compassion, and student-centered approach continue to make a positive impact throughout the county.

LASSEN COUNTY MATH WORK GROUP

BOBBIE KIRKPATRICK, JODI NEUENSCHWANDER, & CYNDY MARTIN

The Lassen County Math Workgroup Leadership Team — Cynthia Martin, Bobbie Kirkpatrick, and Jodi Neuenschwander — has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication to advancing mathematics education throughout Lassen County. Through their collective expertise and commitment to student learning, they have supported educators during significant instructional shifts connected to the California Math Framework and curriculum adoption process.

Together, they have provided professional learning, coaching, collaboration, and guidance that have helped educators strengthen mathematics instruction and deepen their understanding of effective teaching practices. Their leadership has fostered collaboration, built instructional capacity, and supported equitable, engaging, and standards-aligned learning experiences for students across the county.

Their combined years of service, passion for education, and unwavering commitment to supporting both students and educators have made a lasting impact on mathematics leadership and instructional improvement throughout Lassen County. They are highly deserving of this recognition for their outstanding contributions to education and student success.



RETIREEES

RECOGNITION

NANCY SINGH
Lassen High

Nancy has dedicated her career to supporting and advocating for students with compassion, empathy, and unwavering commitment for more than 20 years. She is a trusted source of comfort and support for students, never turning away anyone in need and consistently putting their well-being first. Her kindness, selflessness, and tireless commitment to students have made a lasting impact on her school community. She exemplifies what it means to truly serve students, and her more than two decades of dedication deserve to be recognized and celebrated.

JEFF SCHAFF
Fort Sage

Jeff has made a lasting impact through his dedication to students and hands-on learning. As a Welding, Auto, and Wood Shop teacher, he helped students build practical skills, confidence, and a strong work ethic while creating a classroom environment grounded in respect and encouragement. He will be greatly missed by the school community.

CHESTER PATTERSON
Johnstonville

Chester exemplifies dedication, service, and care through his work in maintenance and grounds. His commitment to keeping the campus safe, clean, and welcoming is evident in everything he does, and he takes great pride in supporting the school environment. Beyond his strong work ethic, he is a valued presence on campus who built meaningful relationships with students and staff through his kindness, positivity, and encouragement. His impact on the school community will be felt for years to come.

CHARLOTTE KLINOCK
Meadow View

Charlotte is an exceptional leader who leads by example every day. Through her encouragement, guidance, and unwavering support, she has demonstrated what true leadership looks like. Whether offering advice, supporting staff, or stepping into the classroom herself to model effective teaching practices, she shows through action how to make a meaningful impact on students and school culture alike. As she retires, her legacy of leadership, compassion, and dedication will continue to inspire those fortunate enough to work alongside her.

SHERRY LINDSEY
LCOE

Since joining LCOE in February 2017, Sherry has been a dedicated and dependable member of the team whose hard work and positivity make a lasting impact every day. Her strong work ethic and willingness to help wherever needed reflect the care and commitment she brings to her role. Beyond her professionalism, she is known for her warm and welcoming personality, always ready with a smile, a laugh, and her signature festive earrings that bring joy to those around her.

JESSICA LARSON
Lassen High

Jessica has dedicated 30 years to teaching math and coaching at the high school level, making a lasting impact on generations of students both in the classroom and on the court. Her ability to make challenging concepts accessible, combined with the energy and creativity she brings to her work, has made her an exceptional educator and mentor. Beyond academics, her commitment to student success is reflected through years of coaching volleyball and girls basketball. Colleagues describe her as uplifting, collaborative, and a positive force within the school community.

DAVE SALAS
Lassen High

Dave has been a dedicated part of Lassen High School for 33 years, serving as Security and Utility Supervisor with commitment to students and staff. Known for keeping campus safe while building meaningful relationships with students, he has a unique ability to encourage and motivate young people through kindness, humor, and genuine care. Whether making rounds across campus or responding to a call for help, he has always been a trusted presence whose loyalty, positivity, and sense of humor have left a lasting impact on the school community.



RETIREEES (CONTINUED)

RECOGNITION

JIM ERNAGA
Lassen High

Jim has dedicated 29 years to Lassen High School, serving in many roles including Science Department Chair, LTA President, coach, mentor, and respected classroom leader. Through his passion for teaching, coaching, and hands-on learning experiences, he has inspired generations of students while always keeping their success at the center of his work. His leadership, selflessness, and commitment to both students and colleagues have left a lasting impact on the Lassen High School community.

PAGE BROGLIO
Westwood Unified

Page currently teaches one period of Junior High ELA along with two high school sections in U.S. History and Personal Finance in a part-time role. She has served the district for many years as a substitute teacher and returned this year to complete her induction and clear both her multiple subject and single subject teaching credentials. She brings a positive attitude, strong collaboration skills, and genuine care for students to every classroom, while also integrating real-world business experience into her instruction to enrich student learning and engagement.

SHERRI MORGAN
Long Valley Charter

Sherri is retiring after an incredible 35-year career in education, including 25 years of dedicated leadership serving Long Valley and Thompson Peak Charter Schools. Her commitment to rural education, strong leadership, and lasting impact on students, staff, and families have earned her deep respect throughout the community, and her legacy will continue for years to come.

MICHELE
PASSWATERS
McKinley

After 15 years of dedicated service to the Susanville School District, Michelle is retiring and leaving behind a legacy of care, hard work, and commitment to students and staff. Throughout her career serving in roles including library technician, crossing guard, food service worker, computer lab technician, and paraprofessional, she consistently brought kindness, reliability, and a willingness to help wherever needed, making a lasting impact on the McKinley campus and school community.

HEIDI CAMPBELL
Long Valley Charter

Heidi has been much more than a front office secretary, serving as the welcoming heart of the Long Valley Charter community. From managing phones, schedules, and daily operations to supporting students, families, and staff with kindness and care, her dependable presence and attention to detail have made a lasting impact that will be deeply missed throughout the school community.

EMILY CELUM
Susanville School District

Emily Celum is retiring after 23 years in education, including 11 years with Susanville School District and 12 years serving students in California, Texas, and the Dominican Republic. As a Kindergarten teacher, she created a nurturing and welcoming classroom where students felt safe, valued, and excited to learn. Her diverse experiences, compassion for students and families, and commitment to early childhood education have made a lasting impact that will not be forgotten.

CONNIE THEOBALD
Westwood Unified

Connie has dedicated 36 years of service to the Westwood Unified School District, making a permanent mark on students, staff, and the entire school community. Beginning her career as a paraeducator before serving the last nine years as a school secretary, she has been a dependable and caring presence for generations of students and families. Her knowledge, engagement, and willingness to support others in any capacity have made her an invaluable part of Westwood Unified. As she retires, her years of service and positive influence will be greatly appreciated and deeply missed.



RETIREEES (CONTINUED)

RECOGNITION

COLINE BEYER
Susanville School District

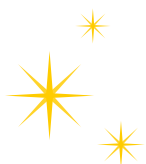
After 24 years in education, including 20 years with Susanville School District, Coline is retiring after a career dedicated to supporting and inspiring students across multiple grade levels and programs. From Kindergarten and Science to Community Day and Physical Education, her versatility, compassion, and commitment to meeting the needs of every student made a lasting impact that will be remembered by students, families, and colleagues alike.

TRENNA HERSRUD
Meadow View

After an incredible 33-year career in education, including 32 years with Susanville School District and 1 year with Westwood, Trenna is retiring after decades of dedicated service to students and schools. Currently serving as a 3rd grade teacher, she has been known for her adaptability, passion, and unwavering commitment to student success. Her willingness to support students in a variety of roles throughout her career reflects the deep care and dedication she brought to education every day, leaving a lasting impact on countless lives.

LAURA ANDREWS
Westwood Unified

Laura has served as a 1st and 2nd grade combination teacher at Fletcher Walker Elementary School for the past three years. A veteran educator, she brought a wealth of experience, strong instructional leadership, and a consistently positive presence to the school community. She played an important role in supporting the implementation of the district's new literacy screener and was a collaborative and dependable member of her team. Her commitment to students and staff has been deeply valued and will be sincerely missed.



EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

In recognition of our many nominees who make a positive impact in their schools and students' lives.

NOMINEES

AMBER JOINER
Big Valley Elementary

JERAD MORGAN
Long Valley Charter Portola

LACEY MONCADA
Meadow View

JULIE GALINDO
Diamond View

CHRIS DANGWILLO
Long Valley Charter Portola

DAVID RICHARDS
Mt. Lassen Charter

HADLEY WELLS
Diamond View

AMY TRENNER
Long Valley Charter Portola

BRIAN BOYER
Richmond

JESSICA GILLESPIE
Janesville Elementary

BRANDY ALLINGHAM
Long Valley Charter Portola

HEATHER CLUCK
Richmond

SHERI DOWNS
Janesville Elementary

HEIDI CAMPBELL
Long Valley Charter Portola

JOSHUA BLACKBURN
Shaffer

LISA URQUIZU
Johnstonville

RHONDA BONILLA CHICAS
McKinley

BETH HERRING
Shaffer

KATIE ZIMMERMAN
Johnstonville

KIMBERLY WIENS
McKinley

ELISE WILLIAMS
Shaffer

SARAH WEST
Johnstonville

AMANDA POWELL
McKinley

JENNIFER KIRBY
Thompson Peak Charter

WHITNEY ZUBILLAGA
Lassen High / LCOE

ZANE TEETER
McKinley

STEPHANIE PRESTON
Thompson Peak Charter

ELIZABETH AMMON
Lassen High

CHELSEY CHAPIN
McKinley

MCKENZIE PEARSON
Thompson Peak Charter

AUDREY VAUGHAN
Lassen High

MARIA VELAZQUEZ
McKinley

JENN ROSHOU
Thompson Peak Charter

JASON MCMULLEN
Lassen High

KINDERGARTEN TEAM
McKinley

JAMIE MASTERS
Westwood High

REBECCA REGER
Lassen High

MELANIE FAIFERLICK
McKinley

JASMINE CONNER
Westwood High

JENN LEPAGE
Lassen High

MEGAN MAYTUM
Meadow View

ELLICE JONES
Westwood Unified

LONG VALLEY SCHOOL
School Site

LIGHTS, CAMERA, EDUCATION!

Behind every spotlight is an educator
Who helped someone believe they could shine.
Behind every standing ovation
Is an educator who stayed after the credits rolled.

Education is the greatest story ever told.
Filled with courage, creativity, and unforgettable
characters.

Every classroom is a stage where futures are written,
Dreams are directed,
And students discover they are capable of extraordinary
things.

Tonight, we celebrate the stars behind the scenes.
The educators who inspire, encourage, and guide others

Toward their biggest roles yet.
Because long after the curtain falls,
The impact of a great teacher lives on.



