



# COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

# RECOGNITION HONOREES

**2022-2023**

**PRESENTED BY**

Solano County SELPA



THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) IS A GROUP OF PARENTS, EDUCATORS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES. THE SOLANO COUNTY CAC SERVES IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE SOLANO COUNTY SELPA REGARDING COMMUNITY OPINIONS, CONCERNS, AND SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.

2022-2023



## Nominating Districts

Benicia Unified School District

Dixon Unified School District

Solano County Office of Education

Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District

Travis Unified School District

Vacaville Unified School District

**2022-2023**



# Solano County SELPA Student Honoree



2022-2023

# MORGAN DE LAGO

## STUDENT



Morgan is a captain for the Benicia High School football team. He leads his team and school community in creating an inclusive environment on campus. He visits the ASD class every day to check in with every student. "He regularly communicates with the teacher/case manager, meets up with the students on the weekend to play sports and games with them, and has built genuine friendships based on caring for others."





# Benicia Community Member Honorees

2022-2023

# GREG ANDRADA JOY ANDRADA

## WHEELS IN MOTION



"Greg and Joy are the shop owners of Wheels In Motion, a bicycle shop in downtown Benicia. They are passionate about helping others, whether it's customers or our students. A senior at Benicia High began working there in Fall 2022. The student learned how to build, maintain, and tune up different types of bicycles. "



# JESSICA CARPINO

## PIZZA PIRATE



"Jessica Carpino is a manager at the restaurant, Pizza Pirate in Benicia, CA. The Workability program has partnered with Pizza Pirate, creating a work experience for students. Jessica is very understanding, patient, and welcoming. This is the impression I have received during our interactions, and this is the type of environment that can be appreciated. "





# AJ EMBOIDO

## PURE HAIR STUDIOS



"AJ Emboido is the shop owner for Pure Hair Studios, which is a barbershop in downtown Benicia. AJ has shown his support for the community and our students. Some of the job duties include watering plants, helping prepare towels, restocking supplies, and interacting with customers. "



# SAM LAROT JANE LAROT



## COURTYARD SALON AND SPA

"Sam (daughter) and Jane (mother) both work at Courtyard Salon & Spa in Benicia, CA. They have been serving the community of Benicia for more than 20 years! Workability and Courtyard partnered together, giving our high school students an opportunity to work there part-time."





# Benicia Unified School District Honorees



2022-2023

# EMILY ADAMS

## TEACHER



"Emily Adams is a special education teacher with BUSD. She teaches at the elementary level in the Intensive Academic program. Emily works mostly with students in grades kindergarten through 3rd grade. Dedicated, hard-working and passionate are also words that come to mind when thinking of Emily and her teaching. Emily is dedicated to her students."



# DIANE ALTMAN

## CDU PROGRAM SPECIALIST,



"Diane Altman is the Program Specialist for the Child Development Unit (CDU). Workability is partnered with CDU, and many of our student workers are hired at multiple after school work sites. The students they interact with are elementary and preschool grade level. Diane has been so helpful, even accepting my idea that the students should go through the job interview process."



# PATRICE BISHOP

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSISTANT



"Patrice has worked for BUSD for sixteen years. She has worked in the Special Education programs with students that are most impacted by their disabilities. She currently works as an aide in our RISE elementary program. Her wealth of knowledge, positive attitude, and willingness to help in any and all students was something to marvel. Patrice has the best sense of humor and can always be found doing extra work."



# MAX HARVILLE

## CAFETERIA SUPERVISOR



"Max Harville is Benicia High's cafeteria supervisor. Max oversees plenty as he is responsible for making sure everyone is doing their part." Several students from the Functional Academics class work part time in the cafeteria. "There, they help prepare simple foods for the next day. Max is very understanding of our students. He is quite patient and feels honored to help support out students."



# KATE LIONEL

## CDU TEACHER



"Kate Lionel is a teacher at Mary Farmer Elementary. Her classroom is part of the CDU after school program, which allows student workers to work in her classroom part time. Our student workers enjoy working in her classroom as she makes everyone feel welcome and respected. Lastly, she includes all of her students, making them feel important in everything they do."





# BERTHA NETRO

## CDU TEACHER



"Betty Netro is a preschool teacher at Mary Farmer Elementary. A few of the high school students in the Workability work experience program work in her classroom after school. Betty is such a kind person, as I have experienced in my interactions with her. She spends time making sure her students are safe and active. Betty is also helpful when it comes to our high school student workers."



# MICHAEL ROUNDS

## TEACHER



"As a mother of a child with exceptionality, I only have gratitude for Mr. Rounds. Michael Rounds teaches and inculcates the love of reading in all students. Not just by telling kids to read but by providing engaging lessons and pulling in students to want to read. My son shared that he lost the love of reading in elementary school, but Mr. Rounds gave it back to him with the story Of Mice and Men."



**PICTURE UNAVAILABLE**

# MEGUMI SAKAMOTO

## TEACHER



"In my career, I've never met a teacher who goes as far with her own time and resources to help students with disabilities as Megumi Sakamoto. She teaches Curriculum Support at Benicia High School and oversees a full caseload of students who have I.E.P. and 504 plans. Ms. Sakamoto has created a classroom environment that supports all students, bar none."



# DAVID SELLS

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSISTANT



"David joined the Special Education team at Robert Semple this year as a SEA in the Resource program. He goes above and beyond his job duties often, providing snacks he's purchased to students who may have forgotten breakfast or snack, checking on students throughout the day who are struggling. He is his students' champion."



# CHE SOTO-VIGIL

## MEDIA MANAGER



"Che Soto is Benicia High School's Library Media Textbook Manager. He is a valuable part of the puzzle, as he assists students with textbooks library use." Two FA students volunteer twice a week. "There the two are tasked with updating inventory and removing old books from the computer, as well as scanning new textbooks into the system. Che is a firm supporter of the FA program at Benicia High School. ."





# Dixon Unified School District Honorees



2022-2023

# TRACI GLISSMAN

## LEAD BEHAVIORIST



Traci is an excellent Behaviorist. However, her dedication to our students and staff go well beyond the scope of her position. Traci has worked this year to support the new site Principal with IEP's, procedures and training for staff. She creates training for staff on her own time and makes sure to use every available time to train staff.



# SEAN MCGREEVEY

## SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST



Sean is a dedicated School Psychologist for DUSD, but is always there to assist with anything that needs to be done. He has worked for the last 5 years to train School Psychology Interns, be an administrative designee, assist with case management for NPS students, create counseling groups during lunch, and do whatever needs to be done to support our students.





# LAURIE MIRELES

## RESOURCE SPECIALIST



"Laurie is a dedicated Resource Specialist that tirelessly works to support her students! Laurie strives to provide support for all of her students both in school and outside of school. She is one of their biggest cheerleaders when they have success. Laurie continually works beyond her day to see that creative intervention lessons are provided to her students, she collaborates with her staff to meet her students needs within every aspect of their school day."



# KIM PARROTT

## DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION



"Kim's willingness to go above and beyond for the benefit of her students and staff is undeniable. She makes personal connections with each of her students and staff members, getting to know what each of them needs to be successful and working tirelessly to ensure they receive it. She takes her responsibilities as Director of Special Education to heart and works every day to provide the programs, information, opportunities, and support that her staff and students need to succeed!"





# Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District Honorees



2022-2023

# JANET AYRIS

## SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER



"My son was in Ms. Janet's class for several years before he moved to high school. During that time, she went above and beyond for her students every day. She knew her students in a way that I had never seen, and it truly melted my heart. I would often reach out to her about how they handled behaviors or the words/phrases he would say at home and his father and I could not recognize. Janet has impacted our lives more than she will ever know. She is such a gem! "



# LAURA BOWLES

**LEAD ADMINISTRATOR,  
H. GLENN RICHARDSON**



"Laura is a passionate and driven administrator who has worked tirelessly at H. Glenn Richardson to innovate and bring much-needed reforms to the site. Using her behaviorist lens, Laura has inspired an incredible work ethic among all staff members, from teachers to paras to related service providers. This has greatly benefited our students, who are thriving within the distinctly organized and instruction-focused environment."



# BRITTNEY CALLAWAY

## PROGRAM SPECIALIST



"Brittney has moved into the position of Program Specialist for Special Education overseeing the Assessment Center. Brittney has taken the position head on and has been doing an amazing job. She has established relationships with the staff that has allowed for a smooth transition and also supported the immense increase in referrals that the team has processed this year. She is a team player and a hard worker that brings an amazing energy of positivity to her new role."



# FERN DECENA

## RESOURCE TEACHER



"Mrs. Decena treats her students as her extended family. We attribute much of our 's success to Mrs. Decena. Mrs. Decena figures out what motivates her learners and then aligns with the family to figure out what is best for the student. Family, student, and teacher work toward a common goal. She is a true advocate— if the team identifies something “that’s never been done before,” she will push against barriers to pave the way for an opportunity for the kids she mentors. I cannot give her enough accolades. "



# JUDITH FLORES

## SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST



"Although Judy has been a Speech and Language Pathologist for over 20 years, this is her first year at FSUSD. She has gone above and beyond in providing speech and language services to our high school students at Fairfield High and provided support to students at Armijo High School. Armijo was lacking a speech and language pathologist, and Judy stepped up to help provide services and case management support to those students with immediate needs."





# SHAWN KIELY

## MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN



"Shawn is an extremely hard-working and dedicated professional who has served our teachers, students, and families with distinction, particularly this year. In his role as Mental Health Clinician, Shawn has been instrumental in heading our Crisis Intervention team, which has responded with our SCOE partners to so many unfortunate and tragic incidents involving our students this past year. "



# AMY WEAVER

## ELEMENTARY PROGRAM COORDINATOR



"Amy came into the Educational Services Department this school year from a school site level admin position and has been an amazing asset to the Special Education and Educational Services Department. Amy has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role, allowing her to create respectful and trusting relationships and guide and support IEP teams."





**Solano County Office of  
Education**

**Community Member  
Honoree**

**2022-2023**

# CHRISTA POE

## PARENT



"Christa provides exceptional support to parents of students with special needs. She is the president of TEAM (Together Everyone Always Matters) Vacaville, a group that is committed to developing a unique group of people that come together with the purpose of providing events and activities that are specifically designed for special kids.





# Solano County Office of Education Honorees



2022-2023

# JULIA GAN

## PARA-EDUCATOR



"Julia is so helpful with the college program. She always goes above and beyond to help all of the students get applications in on time and contact family. She also donates her own time at the college, which helps our students. She's a blessing."



# CHRISTIAN KOVACS

## TRANSPORTATION MANAGER



"Christian truly cares about the students he and his team transport. He never hesitates to reach out to parents and staff to figure out how best to support students, learn about student interests, and implement rewards on the bus. When we were facing a transportation crisis, Christian did not hesitate to come to the table to discuss moving kids and routes around to maximize our resources, even after routes and staffing had been established and implemented. Christian is truly a team player."



# SUSAN LABRECQUE

## SENIOR DIRECTOR



"Susan Labrecque has demonstrated years of extraordinary commitment to developing work-based placements for students with disabilities. She has expanded the Transition Planning Program grant with the Department of Rehabilitation to one of the largest in the state of California. As a result, Ms. Labrecque has provided feedback to leaders across the state on how to leverage state funds to create job placements. "





# MARK MAIR

## PARA-EDUCATOR



"Mark does an exceptional job of supporting his student with behavioral issues. His calm manner helps the student improve her behavior throughout the day. Mark always remains calm during a crisis which helps keep all of the students calm, especially in a crisis. He takes detailed notes that help others better understand what is occurring throughout the day. He also does a great job communicating with all of the staff."



# MEGAN MCFARLAND

## SPEECH PATHOLOGIST



"Megan goes above and beyond her job. She truly cares for all her students well being and success. She has taught me so much, especially how to help the students I work with be the best they can be. It brings me so much joy to see her working with them. She is the most deserving person of this award. "

**PICTURE UNAVAILABLE**

# LILI SANDOVAL

## PARA-EDUCATOR



"I would love to say a few wonderful things about Lili Sandoval. She continues to want to learn more about the students we serve. She has voluntarily signed up for and participated in training to better understand special needs and emotional disorders. Lili is always flexible, willing to learn, and so very kind. She is a quick thinker and takes the initiative. I love having her on our team at Dixon Adult. "





**Travis  
Community Member  
Honoree**

**2022-2023**

# QUANDA WALKER

## COMMUNITY LEADER



"Quanda is an amazing human and influential leader in our special needs community. Her beautiful bright smile and friendly nature make everyone feel good to be around her. Quanda is a huge supporter and advocate for inclusive sports opportunities for children with disabilities. While she is obviously dedicated to young people with disabilities, she also supports parents. "





# Travis Unified School District Honorees

**TRAVIS UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**



**2022-2023**

# CHERYL BERG

## SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER



"Cheryl is the ideal extended family member for any student with unique learning needs. Her warmth, compassion, positive energy, and supportive attitude translate into marked gains in both the lives of her students as well as their families. It is rare to find a colleague so connected to each student's personal life in a professional manner. By maintaining frequent contact, regularly explaining systems and processes, and alerting them to positive accomplishments."



# RACHELLE DINGCONG

## PARA-EDUCATOR



"Rachelle is an amazing paraeducator! Her love for her students is unmatched. When they succeed, she succeeds. When they struggle, she struggles along with them. She goes above and beyond in her daily duties - always willing to jump in and help anywhere she sees a need. She is thoughtful and thinks ahead to support the special education teacher with whom she works. They are truly a team. "





# KATHRYN HARVEY

## SPEECH PATHOLOGIST



"Kate Harvey is an outstanding SLP. Not only is she incredibly skillful in her job performance, but her ability to build rapport with her colleagues and students is incredible. The "crazy blonde lady," as she calls herself, is engaging and exciting to work alongside. She is able to get kids to open up and engage in sessions in an entertaining way where the students have excited to learn and go to speech class. She is intuitive to the needs of her students and always checks in on those around her as well."



# TESSA SEARLES

## MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN



"Tessa is an amazing and kind mental health clinician that serves our secondary special education population. She has a calm demeanor that serves her well in this position. She provides a safe space and soft landing for our students suffering from many different social-emotional concerns, from depression and anxiety to more intensive emotional disturbances. She makes herself available throughout her day to her students as needed but also to the parents of her students."



# EMMANUELLE YBARRA

## RESOURCE TEACHER



"Emmanuelle Ybarra serves special education students from K-6th grade. She is an exceptional teacher who cares just as much for her students' social/emotional well-being, education, and academic success. She goes above and beyond in her daily duties, always putting others and her students ahead of her own needs. Most days, she stays late preparing for the next day or meeting after school with students to provide additional support or testing."





# Vacaville Community Member Honoree

2022-2023

# TOM PHILLIPPI

## PLAY4ALL PARK



"Tom Phillippi saw a need in the community and jumped in without hesitation. From logistics to funding, the Play4All Park has been a labor of love for Tom over the past several years. There is no other park like this in the area that has been a game changer for the special needs community. The Vacaville community will be forever grateful for his work. "





# Vacaville Unified School District Honorees



2022-2023

# ANASTASIA BOOMER

## BOARD-CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST



"Anastasia is always the first to volunteer to help with a presentation or training, even when her schedule is already overbooked. It is not unusual to see correspondence or edits on a presentation made by Anastasia that was done late in the night when we were all sleeping. She is an amazing support to all the teams she works with and is a great communicator with students and families. Anastasia is an asset to all that get to work with her!"



# ANGEL HIXSON

## PARENT LIAISON



"Angel consistently goes above and beyond for our students and families. Angel has a unique gift for connecting with families. From Coffee Chats to information nights to home visits, she is always willing to do whatever it takes for our students. "





# AUBREY MCCLINTOCK

## MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN



"Aubrey joined our team at Vacaville High School last year and has been such an amazing asset. She goes above and beyond to advocate for our special education students. When we had students who became homeless at 18, she did not give up until finding a place for them to live. She advocates for the rights of our students and makes sure that the student and their needs are being addressed. She is there for our staff and students to ensure that they are heard and included."



# ALYSSA MEDINA

## SOCIAL, COMMUNICATION, INTERACTION & LEARNING (SCIL) TEACHER



"Alyssa goes above and beyond to plan ahead for her students long before they ever walk in her door. She changes her plans when she observes they need something different. Students and parents felt welcome by her kindness and her compassion. She advocates for students in her classroom and the whole school for their needs to be met. She shows them how to learn, laugh, play, and enjoy the school experience."



# JESSICA PEREZ

## PARA-EDUCATOR



"Jessica works with students in the classroom to help them to reach their goals. She often makes the strongest connections with the least motivated students. She has built trust and encouraged many students to excel beyond the expected. For many students, she is a pillar in their lives. She also takes on this challenge outside of the classroom as well. She has developed bonds with some of the most difficult-to-reach students on campus. There is a lot more to say...but I teach math, not English. "



# ANGELICA VARGAS

## PARA-EDUCATOR



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"Angi gives the classroom her time, resources, and talent selflessly. She comes to us with a strong skill set with a background in home ABA. She is always looking for ways to support our other classroom staff in learning to be better. She knows her skill set and looks to share that with others. She ensures that all our staff is aware of behavior momentum, proactive strategies, and discrete trials. She is a whiz at lesson pics and has taken on making many of our classroom icons. "



## Community Advisory Council

Thank you to all of our members, and member districts.

A sincere congratulations and thank you to all of our award recipients for their hard work serving students across Solano County.

**2022-2023**

**PRESENTED BY**

Solano County SELPA