



# PRESS RELEASE

Poway Unified School District

15250 Avenue of Science ■ San Diego, CA 92128-3406 ■ [powayusd.com](http://powayusd.com)  
Phone (858) 521-2800 ■ FAX (858) 485-1075

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**CONTACT:** Christine Paik, Chief Communications Officer  
**PHONE:** (858) 521-2707 **EMAIL:** [cpaik@powayusd.com](mailto:cpaik@powayusd.com)

## Abraxas High School Named ‘Model Continuation School’ by California State Superintendent

(SACRAMENTO, CA) – The Poway Unified School District is pleased to announce that Abraxas Continuation High School was named a “Model Continuation High School” by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond. Abraxas High School was selected based on a competitive application process, involving data assessments and on-site visits.

“It’s an honor to receive this distinction and reflects the care and commitment the staff has for each student. The staff puts in tremendous effort and energy into helping students move past barriers and toward their boundless potential,” said Abraxas Principal Alain Henry.

Abraxas cultivates a strong, supportive learning environment where every student’s needs are met. This is done by investing in on-site programs, such as their award-winning garden, as part of the continuation curriculum. In a space that grows produce with composting soil and an aquaponics pond, the student-run Abraxas Community Garden is a classroom without boundaries. Students approach learning in a hands-on manner by applying STEAM and trade skills, such as agriculture, biology, and construction, to innovate solutions for community hunger relief. More information about the Abraxas Garden can be found at [www.abraxasgarden.com](http://www.abraxasgarden.com), or in [this student-produced video](#).



### About the Model Continuation School Recognition Program

The Model Continuation Recognition Program is a collaborative effort from the California Department of Education (CDE) and the California Continuation Education Association (CCEA). It aims to highlight and honor the extensive services, strategies, and guidance that continuation high schools provide for youth who are at-risk of not completing their education. A total of 43 schools throughout the state were recognized. They will retain this designation for three years, and will be recognized at the CCEA State Conference in San Diego May 1-3, 2020. “This recognition is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and determination of the teachers, school staff, and administrators who are helping these students to thrive personally and academically,” Thurmond wrote in a press release.

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