



PRESS RELEASE

15250 Avenue of Science ■ San Diego ■ California 92128-3406
Phone (858) 521-2707 ■ FAX (858) 485-1075

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Contact: Christine Paik, Director of Communications
(858) 521-2707

Poway Unified Announces its 2018 PUSD Classified Employees of the Year

Shelley Porter and Michele Cass Receive School District Honors

The Poway Unified School District is proud to announce that Shelley Porter, Library Media Technician for Sunset Hills Elementary School, and Michele Cass, Administrative Assistant for Alternative Programs, have been chosen as the Poway Unified School District Classified Employees of the Year for 2018.

A committee of District and site representatives selected the two District Classified Employees of the Year (one representing school sites and one representing district departments) based on work performance, contributions to the school district, and community service. The San Diego County Office of Education also sponsors a Classified Employee Recognition Program, honoring members of the classified service for all of San Diego County. This year's Poway Unified nomination for the county-wide recognition is Shelley Porter.



Shelley Porter, Library Media Technician, *Sunset Hills Elementary School*

The library/media center is literally and figuratively the center of the Sunset Hills campus, and at the center of that you'll find Shelley Porter. Shelley is one of the only educators at the school that sees each and every student on a weekly basis. She goes out of her way to make every visit to the library an experience where books come alive, real

connections are made, and students have the opportunity to discover a love for learning. Shelley also opens her library to adults with special needs who come twice a week to help out in the library.

Shelley is interested in more than just putting books into the hands of students. She is highly connected to what students need to be competitive in the 21st century and has made it a priority to assist teachers in incorporating technology into other aspects of their teaching.

For the past several years Shelley has created a Thespian group with Sunset Hills' 5th grade GATE reading students. She has introduced them to Shakespeare, Julius Caesar, and the Roman Empire and given them an opportunity to perform for fellow students, for parents, and in competition against other thespian groups in San Diego County. In short, Shelley goes above and beyond and helps wherever she is needed.



Michele Cass, Administrative Assistant, *Alternative Programs*

Michele is known for many things – especially for consistently providing above and beyond support for administrators, teachers, staff, and students. And she does so with a passion for the job and the students she serves.

Michele does so much more than her job description. She volunteers to organize the Adopt-a-Family program, provides support for the Youth in Transition program, and has taken on leadership roles to organize summer school and the summer graduation.

She has been described as efficient with any task, responsive to any and all requests with a positive attitude, and happy to help others. Michele has a wonderful attitude and is always supportive.

Michele faces the challenges of her job with integrity, honesty and a strong work ethic. And she does all of this with a smile.

2018 Poway Unified School Site and Department Classified Employees of the Year

The following is a list of all PUSD school site and department classified employees of the year. These finalists are outstanding representatives of the high caliber of staff that is characteristic of Poway Unified School District classified employees.

Name	Site
Sue Thomas	Abraxas
Corrinne Cousar	Adobe Bluffs
Michele Cass	CTAE/Alternative Programs
Ryan Salter	Bernardo Heights
Karlana Southworth	Black Mountain
Charlene Legaux	Canyon View
Karla Winkler	Chaparral
Barbara Fuller	Creekside
Tish Batinica	Deer Canyon
Michel Martinez	Del Norte
Rod Valdez	Del Sur
Melanie Hart	Early Childhood & ESS
Janet Barbo	Finance
Lauren Jensen	Garden Road
Jordan Fernandez	Highland Ranch
Steve Upson	Information Technology
Alexis Knapek	Learning Support Services
Gail Pride	Los Penasquitos
Derek Alschbach	Maintenance & Operations
Victoria Hernandez	Meadowbrook
Steve Kraemer	Mesa Verde
Janet Homan	Midland
Figen Koyuncu	Monterey Ridge
Janie Johnson	Morning Creek
Diane Dargitz	Mt. Carmel
Noel Lopez	Oak Valley
Whitney Washburn	Painted Rock
Alison Thompson	Pomerado
Richard Herbicek	Poway High
Christine Gold	Personnel Support Services
David Fisher	Publications
Gayle McCormick	Purchasing
Jeanna Szymanski	Rancho Bernardo
Marla Reyes	Rolling Hills
Tracey Ammari	Shoal Creek
Jane Lauderdale	Special Education
Theresa Zajackowski	Stone Ranch
Noel Tolentino	Sundance
Shelley Porter	Sunset Hills
Elizabeth Muscat	Tierra Bonita
Jan Illig-Smith	Transportation
Gina Nocito	Turtleback
Lynda Carter	Twin Peaks
Cris Rollins	Valley
Carl Pino	Warehouse
Susan Cooper	Westview
Kim Holmes	Westwood
Daniel Vejar	Willow Grove