



PRESS RELEASE

Poway Unified School District

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Two Poway Unified Students Win National Honors through PTA's "Reflections" Art Program

Three PUSD Students Receive State Level PTA Honors

(San Diego, CA) – The Poway Unified School District (PUSD) is proud to announce that **Archimedes Li**, Westview High School, and **Vayun Shekhar**, Stone Ranch Elementary School, received Awards of Excellence in the 2021-22 [National PTA Reflections](#) Art Contest. The awards honor creative interpretations of this year's theme, "I Will Change the World By..." in the categories of dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts as well as a special artist division. Both PUSD winners received recognition in the Music Composition category for their original compositions: "Dialectic" (Archimedes Li) and "Robotic Rhythm" (Vayun Shekhar).

As national award recipients, they will receive a medallion, \$200 scholarship, and their work will be featured in National PTA celebrations and exhibits. "National PTA has a long-standing commitment to arts education, and it is a top priority of our association to ensure all children have access to arts programs and classes," added Nathan R. Monell, CAE, National PTA executive director.

Additionally, Archimedes, Vayun, and another PUSD student, **Zoey Lestyk**, Westview High School, won Awards of Excellence at the California State [PTA Reflections Program](#), which allowed them to advance to the national competition. Zoey's painting, "Just Do It," won in the Visual Arts category.

School site PTAs across Poway Unified had the opportunity to nominate their students' work for District level recognition with the Palomar PTA Council. Those winners were then forwarded from Palomar Council to the PTA's 9th District (serving San Diego & Imperial Counties), and from there, winners were sent to the State level for judging.

About PTA

[National PTA](#)[®] is comprised of millions of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of family engagement in schools. PTA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit association that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education. For more information, visit PTA.org.

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