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## **Poway Unified Principal Sonya Wrisley Named One of NSBA's "20 to Watch"**

On Friday, March 6, 2015, the National School Boards Association's (NSBA) Technology Leadership Network (TLN) announced its "20 to Watch" honorees for 2014-15. These distinctive education leaders from across the country are being recognized for their ability to inspire colleagues to explore and embrace innovative technology solutions that contribute to high-quality instruction and support more personalized learning experiences for students.

Poway Unified is proud to announce Sonya Wrisley, Principal at Design39Campus was selected as one of the "20 to Watch" honorees. According to NSBA, "Sonya Wrisley is guiding teachers to engage students in the Stanford Design Thinking process where they create solutions to real-world challenges on a daily basis. Teams of 150-180 students work with teachers in shared learning spaces with cutting-edge technologies that shift between traditional classrooms, Makeries, Collaboratories, The Gallery, and The Loft to support a student-centered approach to instruction."

Before joining, developing and opening Design39Campus, Mrs. Wrisley was the principal of Oak Valley Middle School. She came to Poway Unified in 1993 as the principal of Canyon View Elementary School. Previous to that, she was an assistant principal at Del Dios Middle School in the Escondido Union School District.

Under Mrs. Wrisley's leadership, Oak Valley implemented a School Wide Positive Support System to help students learn positive and desired behavior and to increase their performance in school. The exemplary practice recently won a state award of \$10,000 and designated Oak Valley as a model school. In 2011 Oak Valley received a California Distinguished School Award which highlighted the school's highly collaborative culture for staff, students, and parents. She worked with teacher leaders and the design and construction teams during the building of Oak Valley. As principal of Canyon View Elementary School in the 1990's, Mrs. Wrisley provided opportunities for staff to learn about standards-based instruction, explore opportunities for increasing student literacy under class size reduction, and hear about emerging technology and classroom integration.

Mrs. Wrisley values the benefits of community involvement with businesses and opportunities to share expectations for the world of work with student and staffs. She has fostered partnerships with a wide-variety of local and national businesses and organizations which contribute their time, resources and talents to Poway Unified.

Wrisley earned a Bachelor Arts degree from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, in Liberal Studies and a Master of Arts degree in Education Leadership from California State University, San Bernardino.

Superintendent John Collins appreciates Sonya's dedication and innovation throughout her career, saying, "Design39Campus has grown into a collaborative school where students, staff, parents and

community members focus on personalized learning, creating educational programs that best serve what students need and want to learn in 2015. Sonya is an outstanding leader and team member and we are incredibly proud of this well-deserved recognition.”

“This year’s ‘20 to Watch’ honorees highlight the kind of exciting innovations that exist throughout America’s public schools. These teachers and administrators, with support from their school boards, share a vision for learning that will prepare students for future success,” said Thomas J. Gentzel, NSBA’s Executive Director. “These inspirational pioneers are having a positive impact on the districts they serve.”

A common goal among honorees is their desire to embrace tools that help them engage each student in the joy of learning; willingness to mentor colleagues; and an understanding that lasting change requires a degree of risk-taking, said Ann Flynn, NSBA’s Director of Education Technology. “Their accomplishments serve as examples that can inform local, district, and state approaches to education technology decisions in the future.”

This is the ninth year of the program, created in 2006. This year’s honorees are being recognized at the 2015 Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) Conference on March 16 in Atlanta, along with a TLN-hosted luncheon at [NSBA’s 2015 Annual Conference](#) in Nashville later this month. [TechSmith Corporation](#) is sponsoring the celebration events and is providing software scholarships to the honorees.

See a complete listing of honorees by visiting: <http://www.nsba.org/newsroom/press-releases/nsba-names-%E2%80%9820-watch%E2%80%99-education-technology-leaders#sthash.xyNdP3Tg.dpuf>

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