



PRESS RELEASE

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PUSD Managers of the Year Announced

Three Poway Unified managers were recognized as the 2013 PUSD Managers of the Year at the January 22, 2013, Board of Education meeting. Melanie Brown, Special Education Director, Robert Gravina, Chief Technology Officer, and Carol Osborne, Morning Creek Elementary School Principal, were selected by the Association of Poway School Managers to represent the administrators and managers in the Poway Unified School District this year.

Melanie Brown, Special Education Director

Melanie Brown's passion for special education ignited over 26 years ago when she accepted a position as an instructional assistant. This led to her becoming a special education teacher, and now serving students as a special education administrator. Throughout this professional journey, her colleagues describe Melanie as a tireless and dedicated advocate for all students. When a solution is required, her focus is always child-centered.

Under Melanie's leadership, the Partners in Resolution alternative dispute resolution program was established in the district. Partners in Resolution provides parents and the district a cost-effective channel to resolve disputes and differences while maintaining positive relationships. Since its inception four years ago, Melanie has participated in 18 sessions achieving a successful resolution in 16 of the 18 cases.

Melanie generously promotes collaboration with community members through her participation in the Special Education Foundation (SEF) the Community Advisory Committee. As a self-proclaimed and self-taught "techno-geek", Melanie is constantly investigating new technology that supports students learning, as well as teacher productivity. School administrators, providers and parents alike, describe Melanie Brown as a highly competent

and compassionate school leader who is making a positive and important difference to special education students and their families.

Robert Gravina, Chief Technology Officer

Robert Gravina serves as the Chief Technology Officer for the Poway Unified School District. In this position he is responsible for a large network, including over 10,000 computers, 250 servers, covering a hundred square miles, 38 schools, and two district offices. His team supports 35,000 students, their parents, and a faculty of almost 4,000.

Robert's passion and focus on success for all students over the last 20 plus years of service to public education has impacted thousands of students and improved the ability for teachers and support staff to use technology effectively to improve the learning environment and increase student achievement.

Robert developed a home computer distribution program, providing over 300 computers to low-income families. He started one of the first computer refresh programs in the nation, ensuring Poway students and staff have the very best 21st Century technology equipment available. Robert was also instrumental in designing a Multi Media classroom environment that has become a national model.

Robert has been recognized by his colleagues as a leader in the field of educational technology, receiving the Information Technology Executive of the Year Award from the San Diego Business Journal in 2010, and is currently nominated by the Intel Corporation for the Innovator of the Year Award for Leading and Learning with Technology magazine. He was also appointed to serve on the Governor's Task Force for Broadband Access.

Carol Osborne, Morning Creek Elementary School Principal

"She's everywhere," parents often comment.

"How do you remember everyone's name?" students often ask.

Morning Creek Elementary School Principal Carol Osborne shares her warm smile with students as she quickly responds to their questions by telling them she knows their names because they are important to her. She also asks the children, "Do you feel special when I greet you by name?" When they affirm they do, she tells them that is the reason she remembers their name.

As a school principal, Carol serves as an inspiring instructional leader, coach, collaborator, counselor, and cheerleader. The Morning Creek campus is inviting, warm, and positive.

"I will. I can. I must!" These words are alive in the hearts and minds of children at Morning Creek Elementary. Through Principal Osborne's leadership, the campus has experienced transformational change to improve teaching and learning with a focus on each child's success. The words, 'I will. I can. I must!' are part of the Morning Creek Pledge that children and staff recite each day. These words affirm the potential within each child. In the past three years, Morning Creek's API has risen 41 points, reaching 903 in 2012. Morning Creek was also recognized as a 2012 California Distinguished School for its academic improvement, specifically with English learners. Morning Creek also joined the No Excuses University Network of schools in 2012.

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