



PRESS RELEASE

Poway Unified School District

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Poway Unified: Home to Three Administrators of the Year

(San Diego, CA) – The Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) recently announced the 2022 Administrators of the Year for Region 18 (San Diego and Imperial counties), three of whom proudly serve the Poway Unified School District.

- ❖ **Lana Nguyen**, Director of Educational Technology: Technology Administrator of the Year
- ❖ **Yael Bozzay**, Rancho Bernardo High Assistant Principal: Secondary Co-Administrator of the Year
- ❖ **Ricardo Ceceña**, Valley Elementary Principal: Elementary Principal of the Year



The Administrator of the Year awards recognize outstanding performance and achievement by individual administrators, and are given at both regional and state levels. Recipients of the awards are chosen based on their demonstration of exceptional leadership, commitment to educational quality, professional growth, and student achievement, and display of creativity and innovation in overcoming issues facing public education.

Lana Nguyen, Technology Administrator of the Year

Lana Nguyen has served as the Director of Educational Technology in Poway Unified since 2017. Over the past four and a half years, Ms. Nguyen has transformed student learning and staff professional development in PUSD.

Ms. Nguyen helped launch the award-winning PUSD Voyager Program, a research-based coaching model, that provides teachers professional development in the areas of blended learning.

Ms. Nguyen promotes the success of all students by advocating, nurturing, and sustaining the use of new educational technology. This includes coordinating districtwide professional learning, training, and support in and out of classrooms. She also has been instrumental in supporting multiple school sites in the development of their new innovation spaces.



Director of Educational Technology, Lana Nguyen

Yael Bozzay, Secondary Co-Administrator of the Year

Yael Bozzay has served Rancho Bernardo High School as Assistant Principal since 2014. For nearly 8 years she has consistently shown a passion for empowering success for all students, specifically those struggling academically or socially on her campus. Through her deliberate efforts to increase access and equity, she has helped increase supports for English learners, added interventions for disadvantaged youth, increase the number of collaboration and learning-supported classes, and reduced stand-alone special education classes, as part of the school's inclusive practices model.

Ms. Bozzay's leadership has also resulted in the expansion of social and emotional wellness programs for students addressing timely and difficult topics, including suicide prevention and drug use. She served on the Anti-Defamation League's Education Committee and recently completed her doctorate, focusing her dissertation on the teacher's role to reduce the achievement gap for Black students.



Yael Bozzay, RBHS Assistant Principal

Ricardo Ceceña, Elementary Principal of the Year

Principal Ricardo Ceceña has led Valley Elementary since 2015. Previous to this role, he has served Poway Unified School District elementary school students as a teacher and administrator for more than 15 years. He is committed to opening access to high quality educational experiences for all students regardless of income, family background, or language ability. His current campus, Valley Elementary School, is a Title I school and PUSD's only Spanish immersion campus. During the pandemic, Mr. Ceceña developed the "Valley Tiger Student Wellness Task Force," to remove any barriers to learning, such as internet access, technology tools, food insecurity, or parent education.

Mr. Ceceña has brought innovative, research-based programs that promote rigorous learning in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) subjects to his traditionally underserved, underrepresented students. It was under his leadership that Valley became the first elementary school in PUSD to be recognized as a Project Lead the Way Distinguished School." Project Lead the Way is a program that provides students with access to high quality, relevant STEM curriculum.



Ricardo Ceceña, Valley Elementary Principal

All three honorees will be celebrated at the ACSA Honoring Our Own Gala on May 7, 2022. Their names will also be forwarded for consideration at the state level ACSA awards.

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