



PRESS RELEASE

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Dr. Darshana Patel Named SDCSBA's First-Term Board Member of the Year

The Poway Unified School District is proud to announce that the San Diego County School Board Association (SDCSBA) has named PUSD Board President Dr. Darshana Patel as its First-Term Board Member of the Year.

The SDCSBA's "Honoring our Own" program selects an outstanding School Board Member; First Term School Board Member; Community Partner; Parent Volunteer; Staff Member; and Confidential or Administrative Staff Member for countywide recognition. Winners will be celebrated, along with the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 18 Administrators of the Year, at the 17th Annual "Honoring Our Own" Dinner on Saturday, May 11, 2019 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina (Harbor Island).

Dr. Patel was first elected to the Poway Unified Board of Trustees in 2016 and has already held the positions of Clerk, Vice President, and recently was elected as Board President. Dr. Patel advocates on behalf of students and public education at the local, state, and federal levels. She was appointed the California School Boards Association (CSBA) region delegate, and completed her Masters in Governance training in the first year of her first term.

Dr. Marian Kim Phelps, Poway Unified Superintendent, nominated Dr. Patel for the award. She highlighted Dr. Patel's leadership, professionalism, and team-building skills. "Darshana is one of the biggest champions of student and staff success and actively promotes their achievements," said Phelps. "She attends all recognition events for teachers, staff, volunteers, and administrators. She is a life-long learner and recognizes and respects the differences of perspectives and backgrounds among all stakeholders and was an advocate for a more inclusive school holiday calendar. She is a well-informed, open-minded, and dedicated member of the Board whose tireless contributions make her an extremely valuable member of our School Board."

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