



2024 Orange County Teachers of the Year

Finalists

Laura	Blackie	Saddleback Valley Unified School District	San Joaquin Elementary School
Vivian	Chang	Tustin Unified School District	Red Hill Elementary
Kelli	Elliott	Coast Community College District	Orange Coast College
Francisco	Sandoval	Fullerton School District	Orangethorpe Elementary School
Matthew	Smith	Private School	Red Hill Lutheran School
Leslie	Whitaker	Capistrano Unified School District	Esencia K-8

Semifinalists

Monique	Becerra	Garden Grove Unified School District	Alamitos Intermediate School
Courtney	Gillett	Huntington Beach Union High School District	Ocean View High School
Mandy	Johnson	Anaheim Union High School District	Cambridge Virtual Academy
Trang	Le	Magnolia School District	Esther L. Walter Elementary
Juan	Resendez	Irvine Unified School District	Portola High School
Brion	Shoemaker	Anaheim Union High School District	Dale Junior High School
Dawn	Spangenberg	Centralia Elementary School District	Buena Terra School
Elena	Spencer	Huntington Beach City School District	Agnes L. Smith Elementary School
Staci	Trestik	Fountain Valley School District	Fulton Middle School
Fernanda	Villalba	Capistrano Unified School District	San Juan Hills High School

Nominees- K-12

Alma	Alexander	Irvine Unified School District	Lakeside Middle School
Heather	Allred	Brea Olinda Unified School District	Arovista Elementary School
Clive	Berkman	College and Career Advantage	College and Career Advantage
Niccole	Connally	Orange Unified School District	Richland Continuation High School
Jun	Cuenca	North Orange County ROP	North Orange County ROP - Oxford Academy
Johnny	Djordjevic	Orange County Department of Education	Mann Special Classes
Colleen	Driscoll	Tustin Unified School District	C.E. Utt Middle School
Matthew	Fritter	Fullerton Joint Union High School District	La Habra High School
Meghan	Fusillo	Garden Grove Unified School District	Thomas Paine Elementary School
Tamara	Hanigan Storms	Santa Ana Unified School District	Middle College High School
Mona	Harkey	Anaheim Elementary School District	John Marshall Elementary School
Elizabeth	Harlow	Irvine Unified School District	Canyon View Elementary
Melinda	Hawkins	Laguna Beach Unified School District	Laguna Beach High School
Yesenia	Hogancamp	Capistrano Unified School District	Carl Hankey K-8 Academy
Stacey	Hunt	Saddleback Valley Unified School District	Silverado High School
Christina	Ilinsky	Lowell Joint School District	El Portal Elementary School
Kaisa	Johnson	Westminster School District	Jessie Hayden Elementary
Krisdee	Kanaly	Anaheim Union High School District	Western High School
Angela	Kim	Fullerton School District	Nicolas Junior High School
Kirstin	Kim	Buena Park School District	Gordon H. Beatty Middle School
James	Kirkpatrick	Fullerton Joint Union High School District	Troy High School
Erin	Lee	Anaheim Elementary School District	Anaheim Elementary Online Academy
Amy	Lewis	Newport-Mesa Unified School District	Sonora Elementary School
Andrea	Mahindrakar	Saddleback Valley Unified School District	Rancho Santa Margarita
Julie	Martin	Savanna School District	Hansen School
Tashla	Mc Cabe	Orange Unified School District	Lampson Elementary
Guadalupe	Melgoza	Huntington Beach Union High School District	Marina High School
Joanne	Morton	La Habra City School District	El Cerrito Elementary
Rebeca	Nelson	Orange Unified School District	Jordan Academy of Language and Computer Science
Rolando	Núñez	Garden Grove Unified School District	Monroe Elementary Language Academy
Eric	Plunkett	Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District	Travis Ranch Middle School
Sarah	Roberts	Ocean View School District	Mesa View Middle School
Sarah	Rojas	Cypress School District	Frank Vessels Elementary School
Michele	Rowell	Charter School	Vibrant Minds Charter School
Cheryl	Smith	Los Alamitos Unified School District	McGaugh Elementary
Christine	Tipton	Newport-Mesa Unified School District	California Elementary
Michelle	Woinarowicz	Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District	Golden Elementary



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Nominees- Community College

Stephanie	Bridges	Coast Community College District	Coastline College
Steven	Deeley	Rancho Santiago Community College District	Santiago Canyon College
Sarah	DeMartino	North Orange County Community College District	Cypress College
Winnie	Dinh	South Orange County Community College District	Irvine Valley College
Rosie	Kar, Ph.D.	North Orange County Community College District	Fullerton College
Ryan	McKeachie, Ph.D.	South Orange County Community College District	Saddleback College
Kristen	Robinson	Rancho Santiago Community College District	Santa Ana College
Souzan	Sahakian	North Orange County Community College District	North Orange Continuing Education
Jason	Sheley, Ph.D.	Coast Community College District	Golden West College