



PRESS RELEASE

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Poway Unified Announces Its PUSD Classified Employees of the Year *Rafael Lopez and Linda Bradbury Receive School District Honors*

The Poway Unified School District is proud to announce that Rafael Lopez, Poway High School Parent Liaison, and Linda Bradbury, Information Technology Department Systems Administrator, have been chosen as Poway Unified School District Classified Employees of the Year for 2010.

A committee of district and site representatives selected the two District Classified Employees of the Year (one representing school sites and one representing district departments) based on work performance, contributions to the school district, and community service.

The San Diego County Office of Education also sponsors a Classified Employee Recognition Program, honoring one member of classified service for San Diego County. This year's Poway Unified representative at the county level is Rafael Lopez.

Our PUSD Classified Employees of the Year for 2010 are:

Rafael Lopez

Parent Liaison, *Poway High School*

When Rafael Lopez walks into an English Language Learners classroom, the feeling of respect from Latino students is palpable. Since Rafael has been Poway High's parent liaison, staff and parents have seen Latino students embrace their education, work harder, and believe in themselves.

"Rafael's most compelling attribute has been his impact on the culture of Poway High," said Scott Fisher, principal. "Parents of Latino students have come to believe that their students can go to college and enjoy the same success as other students. They also recognize that they too are part of our school

community and are welcome on the Poway High campus, regardless of any language barriers. It is unique to find someone who so implicitly understands the needs of both individual students and the school at large."

"Three to four years ago, many of my Latino students came into my class with no goals, no self-confidence about their academics, and no will to go to college. Everything has changed," said Mary Jo Thomas, Poway High School English teacher and reading specialist. "Mr. Lopez meets with students to help set academic goals, mediate conflicts, help find scholarships, and fill out college forms. He finds funds to support field trips where students can visit different colleges. Because of him, many more students will graduate from Poway High School with a bright future ahead of them."

When Rafael became familiar with the Poway High School environment, and the Latino students and families, he realized that they did not all share the same information about college that many of the other families did. He quickly worked to bridge that gap by organizing the PIQUE (Parent Institute for Quality Education) program both at Poway High and at Twin Peaks Middle School. He coordinated with staff from the San Diego County Office of Education, secured transportation and donations for food and drink, and arranged for babysitters for parents who could not afford to leave their kids at home.

Most importantly, Rafael was able to encourage 40 parents to participate in the PIQUE program. During this time, parents learned valuable information about their kids' education. Some of the topics included how to communicate with teachers, the value of reading, and how to support students through the U.S. education system in order for them to attend college upon graduation. The late-night phone calls to parents who work during the day, the home visits, the meetings he sets up for families - all of these tasks are done because they are central to Rafael's core belief that all students can be successful.

Rafael is someone who not only sees what needs to be improved, but also sets upon a course of action that makes improvements happen. He has been the bridge of communication between teachers, counselors and parents. He understands the needs of both individual students and the school at large and is a remarkable staff member.

Linda Bradbury

Systems Administrator, *Information Technology Department*

Linda Bradbury is dedicated to helping others and her belief that technology makes a difference to education. She is tenacious in finding a resolution to every challenge. Each and every person she comes in contact with becomes a priority and focus of her attention. Her infectious smile brightens your day; her never-ending patience is present regardless of the size or breadth of the task.

Co-workers describe Linda's dedication focusing on providing timely, effective, and innovative technology to students and staff. She has a knack for technology, combined with great communication skills and a sincere enthusiasm for helping others.

"No matter the need, or how difficult the job, Linda always steps up to help her colleagues. Her technical skills and abilities are excellent, yet she is patient and always takes the time to teach others," said Robert Gravina, Chief Technology Officer.

Linda Bradbury has worked for Poway Unified for 24 years. Prior to her position as a Systems Administrator, Linda held the positions of a Computer Site Technician, a Computer Resource Assistant, and a Math and Special Education aide. Linda worked at Twin Peaks Middle School until 1998 when she worked in Educational Technology and began helping at all PUSD school sites and departments.

In addition to her busy work schedule, Linda is very active in special needs programs, having a special needs son of her own. Linda has coached for the Special Olympics and kept records for the North County Division. When her son was young, she assisted in starting the Challenged Little League for special needs children. In 1990, she started the Challenged Division of the Poway Youth Basketball League which began with 12 players and has grown to 80 players. This year Linda became vice-president of the Poway Youth Basketball League after coaching the Challenged Division for 19 years.

"The last two years Linda has volunteered to help distribute used computers donated by PUSD to families in need. She believes that technology makes a difference in education and wants equality for all children of Poway," said Dawn Kale, Information Technology Program Manager. "Linda inspires others and is a great role model to the technology department."

2010 Poway Unified School Site and Department Classified Employees of the Year

The following is a list of all PUSD school site and department classified employees of the year. All of these finalists are outstanding representatives of the high caliber of staff that is characteristic of Poway Unified School District classified employees:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Site</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Karen Serafin | Office Assistant II | Adobe Bluffs |
| Yoenda Dornan | School Administrative Assistant-Elementary | Chaparral |
| George Jones | Custodian | Creekside |
| Susan Stoneman | Behavioral Intervention Instructional Assistant | Deer Canyon |
| Courtney Davis Martin | School Administrative Assistant-Elementary | Del Sur |
| Kathy Nelson | Instructional Assistant I-Special Education | Garden Road |
| Marta Swanson/Rosa Wetter | Noon Duties | Highland Ranch |
| Ferdinand Ortiz | Custodian | Los Penasquitos |
| Tarek Rachid | Lead Custodian | Monterey Ridge |
| Janie Johnson | School Administrative Assistant-Elementary | Morning Creek |
| Jacqueline Powers | Instructional Assistant II-Special Education | Painted Rock |
| Rosario Hansen | Parent Liaison-Bilingual | Pomerado |
| Kathy Webb | School Administrative Assistant-Elementary | Rolling Hills |
| Parisa Amini | Instructional Assistant | Shoal Creek |
| Amy Yamasaki | Instructional Assistant I-Special Education | Stone Ranch |
| Joni Gilbert | School Administrative Assistant-Elementary | Sundance |
| Kathy Walsh | Instructional Assistant I-Special Education | Sunset Hills |
| Cheri Kellhofer | School Administrative Assistant-Elementary | Tierra Bonita |
| Teresa Small | Health Services Technician | Turtleback |
| Carmen Blaser | Office Assistant II | Valley |
| Pauline Moroz | Instructional Assistant –ELL | Westwood |
| Lori Hath | School Administrative Assistant-Elementary | Willow Grove |
| Deborah Everett | Library Media Technician-Secondary | Bernardo Heights |
| John Wright | Lead Custodian | Black Mountain |
| Doris Almario | Custodian | Meadowbrook |
| Jan Costa | Instructional Assistant I-Special Education | Mesa Verde |
| Jan Hoch | Counseling Assistant-Middle School | Oak Valley |
| Lynda Carter | School Secretary | Twin Peaks |
| Christopher Sinclair | Lead Custodian | Abraxas |
| Christine Biggs | School Administrative Assistant-High School | Del Norte |
| Linda Uribe | Office Specialist | Mt. Carmel |
| Rafael Lopez | Parent Liaison-Bilingual | Poway |
| Arlene Alper | School Secretary | Rancho Bernardo |
| Vicki Lammers | School Administrative Specialist I | Westview |
| Maritza Alicea | Counseling Assistant | Alternative Programs |
| Nancy Dannhauser | Administrative Assistant II | Attendance & Discipline |
| Kathleen DiTrapani | Counseling Assistant/AE Office Specialist | Career, Technical & Adult Ed |
| Melanie Hart | Accounting Assistant IV | ESS & Preschool |
| Carol Babich | Accounting Assistant IV | Finance |
| Linda Bradbury | Systems Administrator | Information Technology |
| Bonnie Hamann | Executive Assistant-Confidential | Personnel Support Services |
| Linda Spoerner | Instructional Assistant I-Special Ed (Visually Impaired) | Special Ed/Health Services |
| Linda Meloney | District Testing Specialist | Testing (LSS) |
| Martin Koontz | Bus Driver | Transportation |