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## **Poway Unified Announces Its PUSD Classified Employees of the Year** *Vonnie Warrick and Trish Malimali Receive School District Honors*

The Poway Unified School District is proud to announce that Vonnie Warrick, Monterey Ridge Elementary School Administrative Assistant, and Trish Malimali, Lead Adult Education/ROP Office Specialist, have been chosen as Poway Unified School District Classified Employees of the Year for 2011.

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 Vonnie Warrick.

Our PUSD Classified Employees of the Year for 2011 are:

### **Vonnie Warrick**

Administrative Assistant, *Monterey Ridge Elementary School*

Vonnie Warrick's principal describes her as a people person and as the co-pilot of the school. The multiple hats Vonnie wears – from administrative assistant, to health advisor, surrogate mom, leader, cheerleader and friend – makes the school office a friendly and inviting place for all to visit.

Vonnie ensures that successes are celebrated and students are recognized and cared for when they enter the office. She is someone who helps others achieve their potential and who students, staff, and parents naturally gravitate towards. She is a quintessential problem solver, an out-of-the box thinker, and a highly effective leader in the office.

"Vonnie is a person who is open and honest, yet strives to always be diplomatic. She is someone who listens carefully to others and gets the 'lay of the land' before she proposes a solution to help our school run smoothly," said Dr. Richard Newman, Monterey Ridge principal.

"Her integrity and her sense of humor guide her interactions with others. She is bound by the desire to always do what is 'right' and most helpful to the school. This speaks volumes about her desire to ensure that all children are provided the best opportunity to learn," said Dr. Newman. "As to Vonnie's sense of humor, our profession is one that is met daily by challenges. Some see these 'challenges' as obstacles. Yet her sense of humor has had an enormous impact on helping those around her see the light at the end of the tunnel and to enjoy the hard but rewarding work we face daily."

Along with a group of other volunteers, Vonnie spends several hours on Saturday mornings at a Rancho Bernardo Senior Center providing snacks, manicures, and social interaction with the residents. She also leads a group of dedicated parents that provide first-year college students with monthly care packages filled with essentials for dorm life and a taste of home.

### **Trish Malimali**

Lead Adult Education/ROP Office Specialist, *Career, Technical, and Adult Education*

Trish Malimali has been a valued member of the Career, Technical, and Adult Education team where she carries out all duties with efficiency and skill. Her excellent communication skills, both oral and written, have assisted her immeasurably in interactions with co-workers, supervisors, and members of outside organizations.

"Trish complements her excellent work skills with an exceptional work ethic," said Kathleen Porter, Career, Technical, and Adult Education Executive Director. "She is always on time, always prepared, always accurate, and can be counted on to do whatever it takes to get the job done. I have been impressed on many occasions by Trish's ability to skillfully handle constant interruptions, multiple (and often conflicting) demands, and an incredible workload."

Trish consistently demonstrates the ability to anticipate and remedy problems before they occur. She became a leader in the department in record time, helping others interpret and understand data collection requirements and establishing office procedures to improve efficiency and effectiveness. Trish's ability to understand the requirements and nuances of the Adult Education/ROP department and its many different funding sources quickly demonstrated. She has served as a lead staff person for the department in interacting with the County Office of Education for Adult Education contracts.

Trish has conducted new teacher orientations and provided training to staff and teachers on attendance accounting procedures. She is quite savvy with technology; quickly mastering the customized software/databases used in the department, and serving as a resource for others.

Trish has a deep commitment to the respect and appreciation of human differences and makes a regular practice of finding "teaching moments" to promote this philosophy to others. It is not at all uncommon for her to organize a donation campaign for areas hit by disaster or to simply drop by a local fire station and tell the firefighters there that they are appreciated.

Trish is presently located at Del Norte High School, having been recently promoted to the position of high school registrar.

## 2011 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.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Position</b>
Madeline Benjamin	Adobe Bluffs	Instructional Aide II - Special Ed
Meena Patel	Canyon View	Instructional Aide I - Special Ed
Kathy Hockmuller-Scott	Chaparral	Health Services Technician
Lisa Nakutin	Creekside	School Administrative Assistant
Stacey Austin-Sargent	Deer Canyon	Lead Custodian
Gabriela Olszewska	Del Sur	Library Media Technician-Elementary
Jamie Pellegrino	Garden Road	Instructional Aide II - Special Ed
Carrie Farnes	Highland Ranch	Instructional Aide II - Special Ed
Elizabeth Mays	Los Pen	Instructional Aide I - Special Ed
Vonnie Warrick	Monterey Ridge	School Administrative Assistant
Cyndi McClanahan	Morning Creek	Instructional Aide I - Special Ed
Ryan Woolever	Painted Rock	Custodian
Gail Gordon	Park Village	Instructional Aide I - Special Ed
Catherine Citrigno-Norris	Pomerado	Instructional Assistant II - Special Ed
Elisabeth Leatherberry	Rolling Hills	Instructional Assistant - ELL
Melicent Tondro	Shoal Creek	Instructional Aide I - Special Ed
Mary Ann Williams	Stone Ranch	Lead Custodian
Mike Cooper	Sundance	Lead Custodian
Cherie Gracey	Sunset Hills	ESS Supervisor
Peggy Glascoe	Tierra Bonita	Instructional Aide I - Special Ed
Karla Bordeleau	Turtleback	School Administrative Assistant
Colette Bradley	Valley	Student Services Assistant
Beverly Ciuffo	Westwood	Noon Duty Aide
Denise Thompson	Willow Grove	Office Assistant II
Cynthia Erskine	Bernardo Heights	Instructional Aide II - Special Ed
JoAnne (Sara) Larson	Black Mountain	School Secretary
Sue Henson	Meadowbrook	Instructional Aide I - Special Ed
Barbara Snelgrove	Mesa Verde	Health Services Technician
Stephanie Johnston	Oak Valley	Office Assistant II
Olga Jones	Twin Peaks	Middle School Accounting Technician
Deborah Russell	Abraxas	Library Media Technician - Secondary
Karen Carlson	Del Norte	Custodial Supervisor II
Barbara Gephart	Mt. Carmel	LAN Administrator
Sara Khwaja	Poway High	Instructional Aide I - Special Ed
Joe Csaszar	Rancho Bernardo	Groundskeeper II
Zane Parks		Groundskeeper II
Kevin Ashwell	Westview	Campus Supervisor
Lynnette Turner	Alternative Programs	Administrative Assistant II
Brigitte Haines	BSS	Executive Assistant
Trish Malimali	CTAE	High School Registrar
Cindi Hodnett	Early Childhood &ESS	Office Assistant II
Susan Rossbach	Finance	Accounting Technician
Cyrus Shahidi	IT	Systems Administrator
Lynn Hopewell	LSS	Administrative Assistant II
Annette Davies	PSS	Workers Compensation Technician
Gina Hull-Zanolini	SPED	Parent Liaison
Barbara Teixeira	Student Support	Administrative Assistant II
Aurora Bishop	Transportation	Bus Driver