



May 8, 2015

For Immediate Release

Contact: Lisa Contreras

858-292-3505 (office)/619-456-1205 (cell)

Regional Bilingual Leaders in Education Honored for High-Quality Programs
17th Annual Symposium Highlights the Importance of Dual Language Curriculum

The San Diego County Office of Education honored school district leaders for their work in bilingual last night. More than 400 parents, teachers, administrators, and school board members were in attendance for the 17th Annual Bilingual Symposium.

“The purpose of the awards program is to promote bilingual as an educational asset and celebrate our achievements,” said Nnette Adelson-Rodriguez, director, Instructional Innovation, Dual Language, and High School Transformation at the San Diego County Office of Education. “Bilingual means a student has access to a rigorous curriculum that results in proficiency in two languages.”

Awards were presented to 36 bilingual leaders in 20 school districts. Education and community advocate Rosalia Salinas was presented with the Bea Gonzales Leadership in Bilingual Award to recognize her decades of unwavering advocacy and leadership in support of bilingual and equity for English learners.

San Diego County, which opened its first dual language program in the 1970s, has been at the forefront of the dual language movement. Currently, there are about 80 dual language programs in San Diego County, up from 30 programs in 2008.

The 17th Annual Bilingual Symposium took place at the San Diego Marriott in La Jolla. Corporate sponsors of the event included Achieve3000, Benchmark Education, Curriculum Associates, HMH School Publishers, Imagine Learning, Lingual Learning, Mission Federal Credit Union, and Sokikom.

2015 Leadership in Bilingual Awards List

Cajon Valley Union Governing Board	Fallbrook Union Elementary Oscar Caralampio Samuel Angulo	National Lissette Blanchet Maria L. Duarte	Santee Bonnie Jackson Karla Ortiz
Chula Vista Elementary Nydia Cerecer Froylan Villanueva	Grossmont Union High Saul Hernandez Jason Martinez	Oceanside Unified Dr. Gina Zybur	South Bay Union Irene Robles Erica Montoya
Encinitas Union Argelia Lopez Belia Ventzke	La Mesa-Spring Valley Gabriela Temores	Ramona Unified Theresa Grace Monica Tepozano	Sweetwater Union High Antonia May Florence Obedoza
Escondido Union Dr. Evangelina Pando-Solis Cesar Carrasco	Lakeside Union Gelia Cook Leslie Hardiman	San Diego Unified Katherine Aud Diana Yemha	Valley Center-Pauma Unified Debbie Mixon Susy Sanchez
Escondido Union High Sharon von Maier	Lemon Grove Veronica Johnson David Niss	San Ysidro Gloria C. Madera Bertha Franco-Lopez	Vista Unified Dr. Carmelina Reyes Mireya Spacher

About the San Diego County Office of Education

The San Diego County Office of Education provides a variety of services for the 42 school districts and five community college districts in the county. We support more than 750 schools and 500,000 students. In addition, the Office provides regional services for surrounding counties in many areas. Services range from district and school improvement to budget approval and monitoring.

###

