



2006 Classified Champions

Classified employees, those who clean schools, transport children, provide clerical and technical support, maintain buildings, feed students and staff and provide educational support in the classroom, sometimes get lost in the discussion on education even though they make up about half of the workforce in the Sacramento City Unified School District.

But every year, the Board of Education endeavors to lend the spotlight to a few of those classified employees who provide service above and beyond their regular duties. This year, 25 employees were named Classified Champions. They range in occupation from instructional aides and interpreters to webmasters and plant managers.

“Classified employees are invaluable parts of the educational system,” said Norm Tanaka, a district personnel director and former principal. “Without them there is no way for us to ensure a safe, clean and productive learning environment, which is a necessary component in our efforts to ensure success for every student by name.”

A list of the honorees follows. An excerpt from each employee’s nomination form is next each champion’s picture.

Debra Adams, C.P. Huntington, Office Manager, 7 years. “She has excellent work ethics and conducts herself in a very professional manner. She has put in countless hours volunteering for the PTA. She is very well respected by the parents in our community.”



Sequoia Elementary School’s front office and it becomes strikingly obvious; Ruth Boles is the glue that holds our school together. From the clean and orderly foyer to the always-stocked workroom, Sequoia’s office is a space that is warm and supportive to students, teachers and families alike.



Welfare and Attendance Liaison, 14 years. “...Ms. De Anda takes pride in her work product, is conscientious about our families and strives to go beyond the work day to provide seamless support service for our students, families and colleagues. She doesn’t seem to know the meaning of too much work.”



Sylvia Guido, Child Development, Program Technician, 40 years. “Sylvia possesses a strong passion and work ethic and she demonstrates her dedication and love for her work daily. She is always available to help others and often comes in early and stays late to meet the many budget deadlines.”



Wendy Alfonso, Theodore Judah, Yard Duty Supervisor, 8 years. “She has improved our PTA and its activities, made our playground and cafeteria safer, and supported classroom teachers as a volunteer. She advocates for our school in the neighborhood and works hard at her job.”



Robert Costley, Sam Brannan, Campus Monitor, 7 years. “Mr. Costly makes a profound impact on all of the students he comes into contact with. He serves as a father figure to many students who need additional adult guidance and support. This support ensures student success at Sam Brannan and beyond.”



Audrey Floyd, Hubert Bancroft, Teacher Associate, 30 years. “In addition to her regular duties, Audrey has spent numerous hours volunteering her lunchtime to meet with students in our after school program. She has also made home visits, represented classified staff on various committees, and develops instructional materials for individual students.”



Kathy Harrison, Rosemont, Instructional Assistant, 21 years. “Her professionalism and her interest in all her students not only benefit SCUSD, but her school and her students. She challenges her students’ minds with simple, but interesting math and English problems that she’s available to help them with.”



Francis Avila, John F. Kennedy, Cafeteria Manager, 22 years. “Francis contributes to the feeling of family at JFK. She has great care and concern for all students, faculty and staff. She is always a smiling presence in the cafeteria, ready to assist with a meal for a student, cookies for the faculty or good counsel on school committees.”



Marilyn Culp, Hubert Bancroft, Instructional Aide, 17 years. “Marilyn is exceptionally good at working with special-needs students. Whether designing individualized lessons, developing instructional materials, or teaching students social skills, Marilyn is always positive and diligent.”



Elisa Gonzalez, Luther Burbank, Parent Advisor, 4 years. “When any of these activities involve parties who speak a language other than Spanish, you can always count on Elisa to find the appropriate language resource. It never enters her thoughts that she cannot provide service because their language is not hers.”



Joanne Kachmar, Health Services, Clerk II, 26 years. “Above and beyond her normal job duties, Joanne orients new clerks to the other clerk positions on the team, which she is also able to perform with extremely high efficiency. Her ability to be flexible and meet challenges as they arise makes her an exceptional team member.”



Ruth Boles, Sequoia, Office Manager, 23 years. “One step into

Cheryl De Anda, Student and Family Support Services, Child

Cindy Kilby, LSU C, Parent

Advisor, 15 years. “She works well beyond her part-time position each and every week. She assists parents and family members with a myriad of issues. She supports all aspects of parent involvement in our district.”



Linda Leou-Dalvi, Hubert Bancroft, Instructional Aide, 6 years. “Whether volunteering as a coordinator for our various PTA activities, helping teachers and students or working with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America clubs, Mrs. Leou-Dalvi is always willing to help others. She is a devoted member of the Bancroft community who consistently goes beyond the call of duty.”



Cinda Lewis, ISET, Webmaster, 3 years. “The entire community benefits from Cinda’s work. She is key to on-line communication. Because she spends so much of her own time keeping the Internet and our Inside Sac-City intranet sites up to date and user friendly, the district has improved its image.”



Dennis Lomack, Success Academy, Case Worker, 7 years. “Each student has come to understand that there are people here who truly care not only about their education but also about them personally. We try to make it known that we are not here to put a label on them, but to change how people see them. Mr. Lomack has a very special gift in showing the student and families this.”



Rene Lu, Elder Creek, Instructional Aide, 15 years. “Now that Rene is full time, she continues to work



beyond her regular paid hours. She helps with the after school START program, she continues to translate and prep for the office, she participates in ELAC and other committees.”

Robert Mamola, O.W. Erlewine, Plant Manager, 27 years. “When Robert joined our staff, our school was sirty, needed repair and needed some tender loving care. He came on board and made the school his. He worked hours getting our site clean. Without Robert mamola’s dedication to our school, we wouldn’t have such a wonderful place to work.”



Cindy Neumyer, Rosemont, Office Technician III, 15 years. “Mrs. Neumyer’s efforts benefit students directly. By her deeds/actions and her calm/firm demeanor, she directly influences students’ emotional and academic growth.”



Sue Norwood, Communications, Specialist II, 31.5 years. “Sue’s main thrust is customer service and that ultimately helps everyone. She is the shining example of what good customer service is and she teaches others how to give great customer service. Since she trains new employees and office managers, that benefits the students and parents at the schools.”



Brenda Sulzmann, Pony Express, Office Manager, 29 years. “She meets the individual needs of our students and school community who may experience unusual circumstances by going out of her way to spend extra time with them. Our school community benefits from her helpful, organized, caring, friendly, courteous manner.”



Glen Thomas, Child Development, Office Technician, 17 years. “Glen ensures that families have a positive interaction with our department from the first moment they inquire about child care services. For many parents, we are their first connection with the school system and he works hard to make sure they feel welcomed.”



Faith Tyler, David Lubin, Interpreter for the Deaf, 13 years. “Faith’s number one priority as a SCUSD employee is to touch each student with her knowledge, wit and love. With this kind of care and direction it is obvious that her hope is that each of the deaf students she serves and touches becomes a productive and independent adult.”



Mike Ward, Serna Center, Facilities Specialist, 33 years. “He has developed positive relationships with several people who are key stakeholders in the district. He often speaks with members of the community who are partners with the district and plays an important role in the district achieving its vision and mission for all students.”



Kay Yager, Sequoia, Instructional Aide, 28 years. “She has an incredibly sunny, positive attitude; people just enjoy being around her. Teachers, staff members and students who have left Sequoia years earlier still come by to visit with Kay; he sincerity and caring are evident to all.”

