

Overview & Purpose

Every fall, the Teacher Recognition Celebration honors the county's finest teachers, each selected by their respective school districts. The SCCOE celebrations are made possible with the generous support of community partners.

Research & Planning

A Santa Clara County tradition for over 50 years, the Teacher Recognition Celebration is the oldest and largest celebration of teachers in California and the most prestigious local award given to classroom teachers.

Teacher Recognition is celebrated with these objectives in mind:

- to increase public awareness of the efforts and contributions of teachers and their role in helping our youth to succeed in the world
- to show appreciation for their many fine educational achievements
- to acknowledge the many years of training that teachers undertake
- to prepare for and stay current in their profession; and
- to strengthen ties between students and teachers and bring about a greater understanding between generations

Partnerships are also developed with community partners to honor special recognition categories. Working with the Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union, educators are recognized and honored in the categories of civic engagement and the arts.

In search of a new partner for the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) awards, we made a connection with The Tech Interactive (a science and technology center in San Jose that offers hands-on activities, labs,

design challenges and other STEAM education resources. The Tech Interactive embraced the new partnership and sponsored the newly branded Innovation Awards also known as “The Innies”.

Due to the global health pandemic, the 2020 Teacher Recognition was canceled and the 2021 celebration was greatly modified and scaled down to adhere to the then present health guidelines within Santa Clara County. Having endured two years of lackluster fanfare, the County Superintendent of Schools felt strongly about making the 2022 event a true celebration.

The theme of *Celebrating the Stars of Education* was selected and the planning of a “Hollywood gala/academy awards/red carpet” type event began. A historic community theatre was selected as the venue and a budget of \$42,000 was established.

For planning/tracking purposes, the team uses the following document:

TASKS						
Application: District and State TOTY	TASK OWNER	START DATE	DUE DATE	DATE COMPLETED	STATUS	NOTES
CDE Releases Information	Mariaisabel Balandra	June 2022			Done	
Distribute Application for Teacher of the Year	Mariaisabel Balandra				Done	
State Applications to Dr. Dewan for review and signature	Mariaisabel Balandra				Done	
Distribute Application for STEM Awards	Kelly Wylie			6/9/22	Done	
Distribute Application for SCCFCU Arts and Civics Awards	Kelly Wylie		8/31/22	8/31/22	Done	
Save the Date Notification	Kelly Wylie		8/31/22	8/31/22	Done	
Teacher Honorees						
District Reminders to submit name	TASK OWNER	START DATE	DUE DATE	DATE COMPLETED	STATUS	NOTES
Mail letter of congratulations to honorees from Dr. Dewan	Mariaisabel Balandra		8/24/22	8/24/22	Done	
Set up an Outlook email distribution list with all emails for TRC honorees	Debbie Wong	8/28/22	8/29/22	8/29/22	Done	
Set up video appointment schedule	Mariaisabel Balandra		9/30/22		Done	9/9: emails sent to all teachers, waiting to hear back
Collect W9s for honorarium and add to Network Shared Drive	Jasmine & Payje	09/01/22	10/04		Done	Securing final W-9s
Follow up with Teachers for prep information	Jasmine Leyva		8/30/22		Done	need clarification on this
Send event information (FAQ)	Payje Redmond	9/21	9/21/2022		Done	DW 9/27 - added FAQ to webpage
Call times: language support (Spanish, Vietnamese, ASI) to honorees	Payje Redmond	9/22	10/19 and 10/24		Done	Send reminder for rehearsal - picture (group picture) 4:30 p.m.

Click on photo for access to the document

Implementation

Please the planning document for complete tasks. Below are collateral samples.

- [Teacher Recognition Submission Form](#)
- [Charter School Teacher Recognition Form](#)

[STEM Award Form](#)
[Arts Leadership Award Form](#)
[Civic Leadership Award Form](#)
[Budget](#)
[Save the Date](#)
[County Superintendent Congratulations Letter](#)
[Arts Award Congratulations Letter](#)
[Civics Award Congratulations Letter](#)
[STEM Awards Congratulations Letter](#)
[Teacher FAQs](#)
[Event Script](#)
[Video Storyboard](#)
[Board Transmittal](#)
[Board Recognition](#)
[Crystal Award Proof](#)
[Day of Event](#)
[Invitation](#)
[Program](#)
[Signage](#)
[TRC Photography List](#)
[Sponsors/Donations](#)
[TRC Webpage](#)
[Social Media Posts](#)
[Teacher of the Year News Release](#)
[TRC Photos](#)
[TRC Videos](#)
[Video of Complete Event](#)



Teacher Walk of Fame



Co-hosts Nicole Taylor and Dr. Dewan, County Superintendent of Schools, with California Teacher of the Year, Lauren Camarillo

Evaluation

Team Debrief

Even with COVID restrictions, the 2022 Teacher Recognition Ceremony had the highest attendance since the 2010s. The anecdotal data was extremely positive:

This was the best TRC event we have ever done. - Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools

What an amazing event and tribute to the educators in our county. - Santa Clara Board of Education Trustee

It felt like we were in old Hollywood. Or at the Oscars. It was seamless and classy. - Santa Clara Unified Superintendent

The YouTube link has 100+ views.