



For Immediate Release

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FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
After School Site Lead Receives Emerging Leadership Award

(*Fullerton, CA*) – The California Department of Education, Expanded Learning Division (EXLD) recently announced the 2021 California Expanded Learning Leadership Awards, and the Fullerton School District’s After School Site Lead at Raymond School, Sandra Mendoza, received the Emerging Leadership Award. This award recognizes emerging leaders who are dedicated to serving the children and youth in the California Expanding Learning field.

During the Lights on Afterschool celebrations held annually in October, the EXLD presents the Leadership Awards. Lights on Afterschool, a nationwide event, celebrates the role of expanded learning programs in keeping kids safe, inspiring them to learn, and helping working families. Studies show that Expanded Learning programs increase student attendance, cut dropout rates, reduce juvenile crime, and boost academic success. The awards are divided into three areas: Visionary Leadership, Inspirational Leadership, and Emerging Leadership. This year, four recipients were chosen in all of California based on their outstanding commitment to improving and enriching the lives of young people through their contributions to the expanded learning field.

Sandra Mendoza is an After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program Site Lead/Site Coordinator at Raymond School the only recipient of this year’s Emerging Leadership award in California. Sandra loves seeing her students’ faces as she arrives on campus and they are already shouting her name across the blacktop. In her 15th year with Fullerton School District, Sandra and her team continue creating and facilitating opportunities for the students and love seeing them engaged and excited to be in the ASES Program.

Mendoza was officially recognized at the annual California Department of Education Lights on Afterschool Virtual Celebration. “It was so exciting to see Sandra be introduced and celebrated at the awards ceremony. The number of congratulatory notes from viewers is reflective of the respect and love she inspires,” shared Dr. Trang Lai, Director of Child Development Services.

The Fullerton School District is located in northern Orange County, California and serves over 11,100 students in grades TK – 8th. The Fullerton School District includes 20 schools, 15 elementary schools, two K-8th grade schools, and three middle schools. The mission of the Fullerton School District is to work collaboratively with the community to provide an innovative, high-quality educational program for

all students in a safe learning environment. The District motto, “*Great Schools - Successful Kids*” exemplifies the belief that all students will achieve academic excellence, acquire interpersonal skills, and develop technological expertise to contribute as productive citizens in a democratic society. For more information, call 714/447-7400 or visit www.fullertonsd.org.

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For more information, please feel free to contact Dr. Trang Lai/Director of Child Development Services at 714-447-7879