



PRESS RELEASE

Poway Unified School District

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Poway Unified Announces 2024 ‘PUSD Classified Employees of the Year’

Lamis Abousalem, Agustin “Steve” Esteban, and Eva Peters Receive School District Honors

(San Diego, CA) – The Poway Unified School District (PUSD) is proud to announce that **Lamis Abousalem**, ELL Instructional Assistant at Bernardo Heights; **Agustin “Steve” Esteban**, Custodian at Morning Creek Elementary School; and **Eva Peters**, Administrative Assistant for Learning Support Services have all been chosen as District Level Classified Employees of the Year for 2024. Lamis’ application will also be forwarded to San Diego County Office of Education for consideration for county-level honors.

The selection of the District Classified Employees of the Year is based on job performance, dedication to the community, and contributions to PUSD. A committee comprised of District and school site representatives are responsible for the selection.

Lamis Abousalem, English Language Learner Instructional Assistant, Bernardo Heights Middle School

Lamis has been a pillar of Bernardo Heights’ English Learner program for the last 8 years. Being a student new to the United States is extremely challenging both emotionally and academically. Whether it is fleeing from war, leaving family behind, going from an A student to an F student (due to a new language), EL students have so many mental health needs. Lamis provides unconditional love and emotional support for her students. She cares deeply for them and is beloved by students and their families.

Lamis is a trusted adult on campus, bringing to her position her own background and lived experience of being from another country and still having close family overseas. The students know she can relate and can understand some of their hardships. Each student has such a unique story and it is incredibly meaningful to learn that story and gain the trust of the student. Once that trust is established, the learning can begin!



Lamis Abousalem, ELL Instructional Assistant

Agustin “Steve” Esteban, Custodian, Morning Creek Elementary School

Agustin or “Steve” consistently demonstrates unwavering reliability in his duties, whether it's ensuring that classrooms are clean and ready for the day ahead or responding promptly to any maintenance issues. One of Steve’s greatest strengths lies in his meticulous attention to detail. He takes pride in his work, ensuring that every corner of the school is spotless and well-maintained.

Steve is not just content with meeting the basic requirements of his role; he consistently demonstrates initiative and leads by example by taking on additional tasks and responsibilities without hesitation. Whether it's organizing storage areas, coordinating recycling efforts, or assisting with special events, Steve is always willing to lend a hand wherever needed. Steve cultivates partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and agencies. He collects extra donated school supplies and books to donate to the Philippines every summer and he also is highly involved in his church, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Steve’s positive attitude is infectious and uplifting to everyone in our school community. Despite the challenges and demands of his role, Steve approaches each day with a smile and a can-do attitude that sets the tone for the entire school environment.



Eva Peters, Administrative Assistant, Learning Support Services



Eva’s work as Administrative Assistant in Learning Support Services (LSS) is quite varied, yet she embraces all of it with professionalism and great attention to detail. Eva supports several different programs in LSS, including state and federal programs. In the world of compliance, Eva ensures that she is up to date on the latest guidance as it impacts the work of our District. Eva’s experience in the United States military has honed her ability to work efficiently while ensuring accuracy. Eva helps to make sure data is accurate, budgets align, and formatting is seamless. She takes great pride in her work and is happy to collaborate.

Eva holds a heart for serving others. Whether Eva is supporting our work with English Learners, assisting our Caring Connections (CCC) program, or working with our families experiencing homelessness in meeting their needs through the Youth in Transition program (YIT), Eva approaches all with great care and respect. Even when the support of our families experiencing homelessness extends outside the typical workday, Eva steps in and steps up every time. Typically, when Eva learns of additional needs at these events, she takes it upon herself to help meet those needs. Eva’s steadfast support and dedication to any task at hand is outstanding. She is a remarkable individual whose character is defined by unwavering reliability and trustworthiness. Eva is a wonderful thought partner and has helped shape the level of support provided to our most vulnerable students.

2024 Poway Unified School Site and Department Classified Employees of the Year

Congratulations to all of our site and department classified employees of the year who represent the best of #TeamPUSD:

Abraxas High School	Tracy Hargrove
Adobe Bluffs Elementary School	Holly LeSage
Alternative Programs	Cosette Marolt
Bernardo Heights Middle School	Lamis Abousalem*
Black Mountain Middle School	Jose Maria (George) Rosello
Canyon View Elementary School	Gloria Lew
Chaparral Elementary School	Sarah Brewer
Connect Academy	Ella Babin
Creekside Elementary School	Rana Balaa
Deer Canyon Elementary School	Rayleen Montesi
Del Norte High School	Sue Reich
Del Sur Elementary School	Brittany Abifaker
DO - Finance	Jennifer Latham
DO - FM&O & Planning	Miguel Granados-Vazquez
DO - LSS, Attendance & Discipline	Eva Peters*
DO - Payroll	Annette Vaughan
DO – Personnel Commission	Danielle Strauss
DO – Preschool/ESS	Karine Ghougassian Gassian
DO - PSS	Tiffany Sun
DO – Publications	Ryan Schear
DO – Purchasing	Gayle McCormick
DO - SPED	Kristina Cho
DO - Tech & Innovation	Rich Garcia
DO – Warehouse	Sean McCurdy
Food & Nutrition Department	Charlene Thompson
Garden Road Elementary School	Gabrielle Meadows
Highland Ranch Elementary School	Cristian Cisneros
Los Peñasquitos Elementary School	Issis Aranada
Meadowbrook Middle School	Sue Henson
Mesa Verde Middle School	Daniel Rosenberger
Midland Elementary School	Kellie Ames
Monterey Ridge Elementary School	Annette Horton
Morning Creek Elementary School	Agustin "Steve" Esteban*
Mt. Carmel High School	Angela Voggenthaler
Oak Valley Middle School	Belinda Pagaduan
Painted Rock Elementary School	Roberta Markey
Park Village Elementary School	Purvi Sha
Pomerado Elementary School	Melissa Sampo
Poway High School	Jaime Brown
Preschool Site	Judith Mok Fam
Rancho Bernardo High School	Mayumi Athay

Rolling Hills Elementary School	Kim Huynh
Shoal Creek Elementary School	Arlynn Cook
Stone Ranch Elementary School	Patricia Kain
Sundance Elementary School	Becky Cook
Superintendent's Office	Brittanie Arnett
Tierra Bonita Elementary School	Julie Burr
Transportation Department	Jose Abel Moreno Cervantes
Turtleback Elementary School	Sandra Fivaz
Twin Peaks Middle School	Saskia Walker
Valley Elementary School	Aide Trujano
Westview High School	Leila Yekrangian
Westwood Elementary School	Charlotte Eazer
Willow Grove Elementary	Nicolette (Nika) Cokas

**Indicates District Level Classified Employee of the Year*

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