

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PLACER COUNTY’S “TEACHER OF THE YEAR” FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL IS JOHN-PAUL GONZALEZ FROM PLACER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Auburn, CA – Placer County Superintendent of Schools Gayle Garbolino-Mojica is pleased to announce John-Paul (JP) Gonzalez, physical education teacher from Placer K-8 Elementary School in Loomis Union School District, as the “2019 Placer County Middle School Teacher of the Year.”

“Placer Elementary School includes a wide range of grades from kindergarten through eighth grade,” said Superintendent Garbolino-Mojica. “Teachers like JP have to adapt to a variety of skill levels and abilities in order to ensure all students are learning. Together with Loomis Union School District Superintendent Gordon Medd, we’re thrilled to honor JP for his work in the middle grades. He is a true example of why Placer County is gold in education.”



(Center: Placer County Superintendent of Schools Gayle Garbolino-Mojica and 2019 Placer County Middle School Teacher of the Year John-Paul Gonzalez with his family and students from Placer Elementary School.)



(Left to right: Loomis Union School District Superintendent Gordon Medd with 2019 Placer County Middle School Teacher of the Year John-Paul Gonzalez, his wife and mother along with Placer County Superintendent of Schools Gayle Garbolino-Mojica.)

By all accounts, Mr. Gonzalez beat the odds. He had a tough upbringing and couldn't read until third grade. But, with the support from a caring mentor and teacher, he eventually went on to earn a master's degree in adaptive physical education which has become his life's passion. Mr. Gonzalez believes anything is possible if you work hard, believe in yourself and strive to get better – and that's the message he brings to his students each and every day.

Mr. Gonzalez has a strength for boosting student confidence and independence, and focuses on building student character. He understands the connection between physical activity and learning and strives to ensure class activities are adaptive to meet the needs of all students.

In addition to leading the Loomis Union School District physical education department and peer mentor program, Mr. Gonzalez also coaches more than eight sports and volunteers his time serving students with disabilities throughout the community. Specifically, Mr. Gonzalez leads a team of middle school students each year to volunteer as student coaches for the Jessie Baker School Special Olympics in Elk Grove. Students describe this as a life-changing experience.

Each year, the Placer County Office of Education honors three Teachers of the Year – Elementary School, Middle School and High School – through a process that highlights educational innovation, student learning, a commitment to professional development and empathy for all students to ensure equity in education. Further, the program highlights the positive aspects of our educational system. This year, 19 teachers from all across the county were nominated from their respective districts, making this year the highest number of nominations in the history of the recognition program.

Mr. Gonzalez will now go through the state application process, and will represent Placer County over the next year at various public appearances and speaking engagements.

2019 Placer County Teachers of the Year:

- Elementary School – Ashley Rue, Blue Oaks Elementary School, Roseville City School District
- Middle School – John-Paul Gonzalez, Placer Elementary School (K-8), Loomis Union School District
- High School – Erin Granucci, Roseville High School, Roseville Joint Union High School District.

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About Placer County Office of Education

Nestled in the Sierra Foothills, Placer County Office of Education (PCOE) serves over 68,000 students in sixteen individual school districts across Placer County. In order to serve the students of Placer County, PCOE provides an array of programs and service to meet student needs. This task is accomplished by providing high quality specialized programs for students; recruiting, retaining, and developing highly qualified staff; and monitoring fiscal accountability and expenditures of our tax dollars. For more information, please visit www.placercoe.k12.ca.us.