



Press Release

SOLANA BEACH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Contact: Superintendent Jennifer Burks, Ed.D.

Phone: (858) 794-7104

Email: jenniferburks@sbsd.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Solana Beach School District Celebrates 2025 Employees of the Year

Solana Beach, CA (April 21, 2025)

At its regular meeting on April 21, 2025, the Solana Beach School District (SBSD) Board of Education proudly celebrated the district's 2025 Employees of the Year, recognizing the exceptional contributions of both classified and certificated staff members whose work exemplifies the district's mission and core values.



Allison Schmitt, 5th grade teacher at Solana Pacific School, was named the District Certificated Employee of the Year. Schmitt, who has taught in SBSD for nine years, is known for her deep commitment to inclusion, digital literacy, and project-based learning. A natural mentor, she is a trusted resource for her colleagues and leads with thoughtfulness and collaboration.

"Allison Schmitt is the teacher every parent would love for their child to have during their elementary school years. She is organized, energetic, and engaging. Her fifth-grade students thrive in their classroom community where they learn not only academic subjects like math and science, but also how to be a good person, a kind friend, and a reflective learner. Mrs.

Schmitt's classroom is always buzzing and very interactive... learning is definitely fun in her classroom," said Solana Pacific Principal Elisa Fregoso.

The Classified Employee of the Year honor was awarded to Juan "Johnny" Ramirez, Plant Foreman at Solana Vista School. Ramirez is a dependable and positive force on campus, known for consistently going the extra mile to support students, staff, and the larger district community. His attention to detail, pride in his work, and care for others are evident in everything he does—from maintaining a clean and beautiful campus to greeting students with a smile each morning.



“Each morning, Mr. Ramirez greets students by name, engages warmly with families, and starts our day with his infectious smile. He goes above and beyond in every way—his dependability, teamwork, and attention to detail ensure that our school not only looks beautiful but also runs smoothly,” said Solana Vista Principal Lisa Wilken.

Ramirez’s impact extends beyond Solana Vista. He can be found supporting other school sites during districtwide events like Discovery Fest, demonstrating his willingness to step in wherever needed.

Classified Employees of the Year – School Sites

Juan “Johnny” Ramirez – Solana Vista

Brianna Galvin – Carmel Creek

Jennifer Sarg – Child Development Center

Tanya Luna – District Office

Faith Bird – Skyline

Caitlin Norman – Solana Highlands

Samantha Caldwell – Solana Pacific

Lori Wilhem – Solana Ranch

Sharon Fleming – Solana Santa Fe

Teachers of the Year – School Sites

Allison Schmitt – Solana Pacific

Felicity Smith – Carmel Creek

Lindsey Baca – Skyline

Rebecca Riley – Solana Highlands

Kelly O’Hair – Solana Ranch

Christy Campbell – Solana Santa Fe

Monica Rainville – Solana Vista

These remarkable educators and staff members exemplify SBSD's values and mission—where learners find their voice, share their gifts, and advance the world. Their efforts continue to enrich the educational experiences of students and uplift the broader SBSD community.

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ABOUT THE SOLANA BEACH SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Solana Beach School District, nestled on the north coast of San Diego County, serves approximately 2,700 students. Instruction is rich, varied, and innovative. Our emphasis is on core standards instruction provided through a continuous progressive curriculum. District schools consistently rank at or near the top in district, county, and state accountability measures. Our students and schools have received numerous awards and have been recognized at county, state, and national levels for a variety of accomplishments. Working together, our mission focuses on providing a safe space where learners find their voice, share their gifts, and advance the world.