



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Poway Unified Middle School Teacher Named 2022-23 San Diego County Teacher of the Year**

*Mesa Verde Middle School's Aimee McCoy is one of five San Diego area educators now being considered for the California State Teacher of the Year Title*



*From left to right: San Diego County Superintendent Dr. Paul Gothold with 2022-23 San Diego County Teachers of the Year: Juanita Nuñez, Melissa Rains, Stephanie Cluxton, Aimee McCoy, and Jacqueline Ma*

(San Diego, CA) – Aimee McCoy, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade humanities teacher and AVID coordinator at Mesa Verde Middle School, has been named one of the five 2022-23 San Diego County Teachers of the Year. Poway Unified had three District representatives who were nominated for this title – Andrea Ford (Westview High School), Nay Flinn (Connect Academy) and Aimee McCoy (Mesa Verde Middle School). The five County honorees were announced at a reception Friday evening as part of the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual “Cox Presents: Salute to Teachers,” brought to you by San Diego County Credit Union in partnership with the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE).

The five Teachers of the Year will represent San Diego County in the California Teacher of the Year program. The state-level winners will be announced next month. The 2022-2023 San Diego County Teachers of the Year are:

- **Stephanie Cluxton**, Torrey Hills School, Del Mar Union School District
- **Jacqueline Ma**, Lincoln Acres Elementary, National School District
- **Aimee McCoy**, Mesa Verde Middle School, Poway Unified School District

- **Juanita Nuñez**, Ocean View Hills, Sunset, Smythe, Willow, and La Mirada elementary schools, San Ysidro School District
- **Melissa Rains**, Castle Park Middle School, Sweetwater Union High School District



#### About Aimee McCoy

Ms. McCoy, who has taught at Mesa Verde for eight years, was a graduate of Poway Unified herself. Her father was also a long-time teacher at Mesa Verde, where they taught together for two years before he retired. Ms. McCoy has successfully developed an integrated AVID course that allows for students to learn the necessary study skills that AVID teaches in conjunction with a Humanities course. Aimee has also worked to create an environment that encourages effective and meaningful technology for student learning. She believes that allowing students to “feel valued by sharing and asking questions” is essential to the success of the whole class. She enjoys bringing the community to campus so students can learn about the range of career and educational paths they can pursue. Her encouragement and instruction inspire her students and fellow educators. A former student recalls how impactful

her connections were. “In our AVID class, we had a really diverse group of students from all different backgrounds and abilities, but Ms. McCoy seemed to make time for each and every one of us and seemed to connect and respect each individual student.” She reflects, “This special connection Ms. McCoy makes with her students meant she was really there for you when you were having a hard time. She’s not just focused on the academics, but also on students and their well-being. Ms. McCoy is an amazing example of what a teacher should be: knowledgeable, fun, able to connect, and an excellent mentor. I will forever be grateful for and look up to her.”

The 2022-23 San Diego County Teachers of the Year were chosen from among 40 teachers nominated by their school districts for their commitment to students, teaching, and lifelong learning. The winners were selected based on a review of their applications and interviews by a panel made up of former County Teachers of the Year, district and county office of education administrators, and a PTA representative. They were chosen based on school-community involvement, teaching philosophy, knowledge of current educational issues and trends, promotion and development of the teaching profession, school culture, and ability to serve as ambassadors of education.

Since 1974, 191 teachers have been named San Diego County Teacher of the Year. Of those, 23 were named California Teacher of the Year, and three went on to be named National Teacher of the Year.

In partnership with SDCOE, Cox Communications will produce a one-hour “Cox Presents: Salute to Teachers” television special to recognize local teachers, spotlight the teachers of the year, and share highlights from the reception. The show, hosted by Food Network personality, *San Diego Magazine* owner and Poway Unified alumni Troy Johnson, will air at 9 p.m. Oct. 2 on YurView Network (Cox Channel 4) and will replay several times in October and November.

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