LAUSD SALUTES 22 EDUCATORS AS ‘TEACHERS OF THE YEAR’
Winners will be honored at the L.A. County Teachers of the Year Luncheon in September

LOS ANGELES - The Los Angeles Unified School District will proudly honor 22 educators in 2015-2016 as the Teachers of the Year. These exceptional educators include a winning Science Bowl coach and robotics mentor/coach; award winning elementary, middle, high and continuation school teachers; dual language and talented English, filmmaking, world history, math, science and government instructors. They teach at some of the most diverse schools in the country. They guide, encourage and use occasional humor to help students succeed academically.

“I congratulate our 2015-16 Teachers of the Year,” said L.A. Unified Superintendent Ramon C. Cortines. “They are the dedicated and compassionate instructors in the classroom who help our students achieve educational excellence. They awaken, brighten and influence the lives of young people and help shape the minds of the future.”

The 22 winning teachers will be honored at the Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year luncheon in September:

Esther Calderón, a dual language kindergarten teacher at Carlos Santana Arts Academy, has been teaching for 18 years. She lives in Simi Valley.

Jennifer Childers, a science and leadership teacher at Sepulveda Middle School & Gifted Magnet has been teaching for 18 years. She lives in Northridge.

Melanie Du Bose, an English and filmmaking teacher at East Los Angeles Performing Arts Magnet, has been teaching for 15 years. She lives in Los Angeles.

Martha Garibay, a first-grade teacher at Fifty-Second Street Elementary School, has been teaching for 14 years. She lives in Long Beach.

Daniel Jocz, a social studies teacher at Downtown Magnet High School, has been teaching for 11 years. He lives in Burbank.

Lisa Kochakji, a first-grade teacher at Stagg Street Elementary School, has been teaching for 17 years. She lives in Van Nuys.

Roxana M. L’Heureux, a third-grade teacher at Carlos Santana Arts Academy, has been teaching for eight years. She lives in Simi Valley.

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Alberto Lopez, a sixth-grade teacher at Orchard Academies #2C Global Studies & Technology Academy, has been teaching for 17 years. He lives in Fontana.

Altair Maine, an Advanced Placement physics and Advanced Placement science teacher, at North Hollywood High School, has been teaching for 15 years. He lives in Burbank.

Tania Martinez, a dual language kindergarten teacher at Carlos Santana Arts Academy, has been teaching for 15 years. She lives in Northridge.

Maria Medina-Perez, an algebra teacher at South Gate High School, has been teaching for 14 years. She lives in Pico Rivera.

May-Lynn Geronimo Montano, a fourth-grade teacher at Miramonte Elementary, has been teaching for 17 years. She lives in Lakewood.

Darryl Newhouse teaches Advanced Placement calculus, pre-calculus, Algebra II, robotics and Intro to Engineering Design, at Foshay Learning Center. Teaching for 23 years, he lives in South Pasadena.

Claudine Phillips, a second-grade teacher at Roscomare Road Elementary School, has been teaching for 18 years. She lives in Sherman Oaks.

Ada Marisol Reyes, a fifth-grade teacher at Carlos Santana Arts Academy, has been teaching for 11 years. She lives in Reseda.

Maria D. Sanchez, a second/third grade teacher at Western Avenue Elementary School, has been teaching for 12 years. She lives in La Habra.

Heather Ashley Sandoval-Feng, a social science teacher at Harris Newmark Continuation High School, has been teaching for nine years. She lives in Pasadena.

Chandra D. Sheppard, an English Language Arts and math teacher at Budlong Avenue School, has been teaching for 14 years. She lives in Long Beach.

Carol Sun, an English Language Arts, English Language development and math resource teacher at Harvard Elementary School, has been teaching for nine years. She lives in Playa Vista.

Chanelle Thomas, a fourth-grade teacher at Denker Avenue Elementary School, has been teaching for 20 years. She lives in Carson.

Michelle Elaine Youngblood Jarman teaches English Language and literature, study techniques and works with the yearbook, at Eagle Rock Junior/Senior High School. She has been teaching for 19 years. She lives in Valley Village.

Christine Zhou teaches secondary mathematics at Social Justice Leadership Academy. Teaching for eight years, she lives in Monrovia.

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Teachers of the Year photos are available upon request.