

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Top EDUHSD Administrators Recognized

The El Dorado Union High School District is proud to have three administrators honored at this year's regional Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Administrator of the Year award ceremony last month. Aaron Palm, current interim principal at Oak Ridge High School, Mike Ziegler, counselor at Union Mine High School, and Dan Augino, Director of Maintenance, Operations and Facilities, were all presented with their awards at the February 25th event.

Aaron Palm was recognized as the ACSA Continuation/Educational Options Administrator of the Year through his work as Director of Educational Options and Innovations at the EDUHSD Virtual Academy in El Dorado, CA. Within this role, Palm facilitates the educational environment at the Virtual Academy (VA) by relentlessly fostering the idea that the VA prepares students for college, careers, and for the global community of life-long learners by engaging one student at a time. Through a rigorous blended online learning experience, each student is uniquely prepared for post-secondary college and career options.

Tara Grudin, current interim director at the VA, said Palm is a true leader.

"He not only leads by example but he fosters the growth of others. Mr. Palm strives not only to solve problems but takes pride in doing what is right for his staff and students. He pushes people to think and grow in ways they never saw possible. He has looked critically at the current educational model and he has innovated and transformed what was traditional practice into a cutting-edge learning experience that meets the needs of all students."

Mike Ziegler, counselor at Union Mine High School in El Dorado, CA, was recognized as the ACSA Secondary Co-Administrator of the Year. Over the past eight years at Union Mine, Ziegler has worked diligently to promote the vision of learning shared by the entire school community. He is a champion for all students. Under his leadership, the school's AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program has thrived, helping students who face ethnic and social barriers reach the goal of college acceptance.

"Mike believes in his students," EDUHSD Superintendent Stephen Wehr said. "On a regular basis I receive feedback from both students and parents extolling his thoughtfulness, work ethic, consistency and fairness."

Dan Augino, Director of Maintenance, Operations and Facilities for EDUHSD, was recognized in the category of Classified Management. Augino has been with the district since 1991 and his vast experience in construction has saved the district hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years. Some of the most recent projects Augino has overseen include the construction of a brand new multi-purpose room at El Dorado High School, the remodel of the Ponderosa High School cafeteria, addition of a new wrestling room and expansion of the gymnasium at Oak Ridge High School, and the conversion of a classroom to house "Project Lead the Way," a high tech computer and robotics program, at Union Mine High School.

“Dan’s construction industry knowledge and experience, coupled with his attention to detail, has been an amazing asset to the district,” Baldev Johal, associate superintendent of business services, said. “In a cost saving measure, the district eliminated the director of facilities position – at an annual savings of over \$150,000 – and the duties of this position were absorbed by Dan. His prowess and hard work ethic has allowed the district to redirect the savings into the classroom.”

All three of these administrators are integral to the continued success of the district as we work toward educating each student in a safe, supportive environment that will challenge students to pursue appropriate, rigorous paths for academic and career development and achievement that lead to lifelong learning and a productive adulthood.



ACSA award recipients

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