

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Association of California School Administrators
Announce Region 2 Administrators of the Year**

The El Dorado Union High School District (EDUHSD) is proud to have six administrators honored at this year's regional Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Administrator of the Year Awards Ceremony. Aaron Palm (Principal, Oak Ridge High School), Chuck Palmer (Senior Director, Student Services and Innovation), Jeremy Hunt (Assistant Principal, Ponderosa High School), Marti Zizek (Director, Fiscal Services), Anthony DeVille (Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources), and Lisa Garrett (Principal, Ponderosa High School) were all presented with awards at the March 8, 2019 Gala event in Lincoln, CA.

Aaron Palm was awarded the Marcus Foster Memorial Award for Administrative Excellence. Aaron has distinguished himself in the implementation of 21st Century learning skills and fostering a school culture that promotes student health, engagement, and integrity. He has been a leader in these areas for over a decade. As a result of Aaron's leadership, the EDUHSD successfully became a model Google Education learning community. The District infrastructure, device type, and student to device ratios have been shaped by his vision and leadership. Aaron has been a pioneer in the Future Ready Schools movement designed to move schools quickly toward preparing students for success in college, a career, and citizenship. He laid out a path for others to follow, and now students throughout the District are benefiting from the created opportunities.

Dr. Ron Carruth, Superintendent of the El Dorado Union High School District, stated "As a leader, Aaron is willing to take carefully planned risks to improve educational opportunities for students and push to help students excel. He is creative and extremely willing to try new ideas such as innovative approaches to MTSS, Career Pathways and student emotional support. Aaron is a respecter of people from all walks of life and is a champion of helping all students be successful. He is skilled at working with his faculty and staff as well as community and is fully engaged in promoting public education and the role it plays in a healthy democracy. Aaron's leadership facilitates a positive school culture for all who teach and learn at Oak Ridge High School. Teachers regularly share with me how much they appreciate his commitment to providing them with the resources necessary to do their work well and, upon visiting student leadership classes, it is clear that the student voice is an important part of the fabric of the campus."

Chuck Palmer, Senior Director of Student Services and Innovation, was recognized as the Continuation/Educational Options Region 2 Administrator of the Year. Chuck is the exemplar of innovation and all of his work is driven by his passion to help students succeed. The Virtual Academy is a blended learning high school that lets students split their time between home and actual classes. The beauty of the program is how it flips the classroom from a teacher centered model to a student centered model. They are leveraging technology in unique ways for the good of the students. Chuck is transitioning the school to also being a middle college campus. His exceptional leadership helps to grow and develop this model. The school

is the definition of flexibility, student-centered and innovative. Chuck is a great role model for young people. He has the strongest moral code and models it for students. The school's values model his values.

Jeremy Hunt, Assistant Principal, was recognized as the Secondary Co-Administrator Region 2 Administrator of the Year. Jeremy is a dedicated school administrator with outstanding oral and written communication abilities, with a wide array of skills and experience. He has developed a broad educational knowledge base with emphasis on data-based decision making using applicable policy and procedures, while still considering the uniqueness of each student. He is an inspirational and creative leader who helps to motivate students and staff to reach new heights. He is committed to ensuring that all members of the learning community receive a well-rounded scholastic and cultural experience. Jeremy works with incredible integrity. He is in every pocket of the campus, doing what he says he will do. The Ponderosa staff, students, and families have great confidence in his leadership.

Marti Zizek, Director of Fiscal Services, was recognized as the Confidential Employee Region 2 Administrator of the Year. Marti is creative and dedicated. She provides innovative solutions to challenging problems. She is a strong team member who works diligently to ensure that the needs of her department are met. By doing so, she empowers the EDUHSD to achieve greatness for all learners. Staff members rely on Marti to find unique strategies for achieving goals. She effectively addresses puzzling circumstances with a keen eye for alternative solutions. Marti's effective fiscal management and oversight helps the EDUHSD to meet our goals of creating safe, efficient, and effective learning environments. Her attention to detail and her expert application of sound financial practices create the foundation for success.

Tony DeVille, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, was recognized as the Silver Star Winner for Central Office Administrator. Tony works tirelessly to ensure schools are staffed with exceptional administrators, certificated personnel and classified staff. He organizes and facilitates professional development opportunities designed to improve school culture and instructional programs for staff. By leading this cycle of inquiry, continuous improvement is achieved. Tony supports teachers and staff professional development to ensure employees are proficient and capable of using the required software programs. Such training helps with compliance reporting, database management, multimedia communication, and instruction. He communicates the importance of employee evaluations and in particular emphasizes the California Standards for the Teaching Profession that focus on educational quality and student achievement.

Lisa Garrett, Principal, was recognized as the Silver Star Winner for Secondary Principal. One of Lisa's greatest strengths as an administrator is her personal code of ethics. She is caring, conscientious, dignified and hard working. Additionally, Lisa is committed to professional growth, both her own growth, and that of her teachers and staff. Recently she joined a group of administrators and teachers on a visit to La Serna High School in Whittier, California to learn more about how this particular school utilizes student tutors to increase student achievement. During her tenure, Lisa has implemented several yearly themes at Ponderosa High in order to create a school culture that is inviting and inclusive and which promotes the success and emotional well-being of all students. These included both the "Dude, Be Nice" and "Do Good, Be Good" themes. Additionally, she has also implemented an overarching theme of Pride, Honor, and Spirit at her school. This has become more than just mere words; it has become the credo which guides students, staff, and teachers with regards to how they treat one another and anyone who sets foot on their campus, from guests to athletic opponents.

"I'm so proud of the accomplishments of this group of educational leaders," Carruth said. "Each has outstanding character and commitment to the success of our students and works respectfully with our amazing staff, students and community. This was a great night for the El Dorado Union High School District."



(Top left to right: Lisa Garrett, Chuck Palmer, Jeremy Hunt)
(Bottom left to right: Marti Zizek, Tony DeVille, Aaron Palm)