

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



(Left to right: Leslie Baker, Darrin Slojkowski, Jennifer Myers)

The El Dorado Union High School District (EDUHSD) is proud to have three administrators honored at this year's regional Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Administrator of the Year Awards Ceremony. Leslie Baker, Darrin Slojkowski and Jennifer Myers were all presented with awards at the March 19, 2021 virtual Gala celebration.

Leslie Baker, Human Resources Specialist at the District Office, was recognized as the Confidential Employee Region 2 Administrator of the Year. Leslie plays an integral role in the recruitment, hiring, and onboarding of new certificated employees. She has extended the District's "reach" in terms of expanding the platforms now used to advertise certificated positions in the District. She also plays a key role in identifying applicants who are strong in meeting the unique and individualized needs of students. Additionally, Leslie plays a key role in the onboarding of new certificated employees, and in this process, she is effective at communicating

and modeling values, which are integral to the culture of our District and our schools. Undoubtedly, Leslie's efforts communicated above have allowed us to attract and secure the very best educators in the region, which has led to high student achievement and high quality educational programs across the District. In addition, Leslie is the recipient of the State ACSA Confidential Employee of the Year Award and to be selected out of 19 regions is quite an honor.

Aaron Palm, President of the El Dorado ACSA Charter, stated, "The El Dorado ACSA Charter could not be more proud of Leslie Baker. She is a model for leadership in our County. Winning the ACSA State award makes her the best of the best. Our community and everyone who works with her benefits from her expertise and leadership. It is humbling to see the quality of leadership that exists in our County."

Darrin Slojkowski, Assistant Principal at Ponderosa High School, was recognized as the Secondary Co-Administrator Region 2 Administrator of the Year. Darrin has been an invaluable asset this year, drawing on his experiences and knowledge to help guide decisions during difficult and unprecedented circumstances. Currently he is helping lead Ponderosa's response to the challenges of running a school during a pandemic. This includes creating opportunities for quarantined students to have equal access to coursework and final exams, ensuring teachers and staff have appropriate PPE, and oversight of the custodial and maintenance team who clean and sanitize the school daily. Darrin is thoughtful and considerate when working with students and parents. His experience not just as an educator, but also as a father, allows him to empathize with those he serves and make decisions that best help each student as an individual. Darrin is student and teacher centered, always looking out for the best interest of those he serves. This was exemplified in his efforts to make sure the class of 2020 had appropriate recognition at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Jennifer Myers, Assistant Principal/Site Administrator at Independence High School, was recognized as the Continuation/Educational Options Region 2 Administrator of the Year. Jennifer's passion for and commitment to Independence High School is unparalleled. She believes wholeheartedly in the alternative education model and has a vision for how to continue growing-with a goal of being a model alternative education site in California. Students are challenged and loved at Independence. The involvement of community members and support from community resources allows students to feel, often for the first time, equitable when they get to Independence. Students and teachers feel appreciated and valued, every day. Jennifer is an incredible creative and innovative thinker. She is one of those people that wakes up in the middle of the night with a solution to a problem or situation that arose recently whether it be about the budget, scheduling, staffing, or a student event. She then takes another step and shares and collaborates to gain input and insight from others. Jennifer recruits and includes as many students and parents as possible into these moments. Jennifer is passionate about education and even more passionate about alternative education and Independence High School.

"I'm so proud of the accomplishments of this group of educational leaders," EDUHSD Superintendent Ron 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."