



For Immediate Release

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FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
Nicolas Junior High School Teacher Awarded
California League of Educators Middle School Teacher of the Year

(*Fullerton, CA*) - Mucio Vidales, teacher at Nicolas Junior High School, was awarded the California League of Educators 2024 Middle School Teacher of the Year. Mr. Vidales was nominated for his educational excellence and his transformational moment as an educator.

This award is granted to a teacher who exemplifies educational excellence and has made significant efforts to implement elements of educational reform. The California League of Educators Educator of the Year award is given annually to California elementary, middle, and high school educators who exemplify educational excellence. As the nominee selected to represent Region 11, which includes Los Angeles and Orange Counties, Mr. Vidales was honored at the California League of Educators Conference held in Monterey, California earlier this month.

To nab the top spot, Mr. Vidales shared his past teaching experience, including elementary to middle school, and in subjects ranging from ELA, Social Studies, Spanish, and Theater, to Woodworking. It was the woodworking class that gave Mr. Vidales his 'aha' moment in teaching. He spoke about the transformational moment when he witnessed a student with destructive behavior become sparked and engaged during a field trip to the Carpenters Union Training Facility.

This moment was such a transformation for Mr. Vidales, that he now teaches five Wood I classes and one Wood II class. The Wood II students are learning carpentry skills to build a tiny house. As part of this Tiny House Project, the students are learning construction trades and becoming agents of change as the tiny home will be shelter for a family in need. This tiny house will provide a Fullerton School District elementary school student and family a safe place to sleep and do homework. Mr. Vidales spoke with passion about the immense pride he has in his students, the amazing growth in their confidence, and the students' ability to thrive in new experiences such as news agency interviews.

“Knight Nation is proud of Mr. Vidales on his being named California League of Schools Middle School Teacher of the Year. Thank you for all the great work you do with our students,” shared Jose Varela, Principal, Nicolas Junior High School.

The Fullerton School District is located in northern Orange County, California and serves over 11,600 students in grades TK – 8th. The Fullerton School District includes 21 schools, 15 elementary schools, two K-8th grade schools, three middle schools, and a distance learning and home school model. The mission of the Fullerton School District is to work collaboratively with the community to provide an innovative, high-quality educational program for all students in a safe learning environment. The District motto, “*Great Schools - Successful Kids*” exemplifies the belief that all students will achieve academic excellence, acquire interpersonal skills, and develop technological expertise to contribute as productive citizens in a democratic society. For more information, call 714/447-7400 or visit www.fullertonsd.org.

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*For more information, please feel free to contact Dr. Chad Hammitt/Deputy Superintendent
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