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Lynwood Unified Mourns the Passing of Deputy Superintendent Shawna Dinkins

LYNWOOD, CA – It is with profound sadness that Lynwood Unified School District announces the death of Deputy Superintendent Shawna Dinkins, Ed.D., who passed away on Saturday, March 1, following a sudden and courageous battle with cancer. Her passing is a heartbreaking loss for Lynwood Unified and the many lives she touched throughout her extraordinary career.

Dinkins' unwavering commitment to student success and nearly seven years of leadership at Lynwood Unified have elevated the District to new heights, establishing it as a model for equity and excellence.

"To those who had the privilege of working alongside her, Dr. Dinkins was an inspiration – someone who led with heart, vision and an unshakable belief in the potential of every student," Superintendent Gudiel R. Crosthwaite, Ph.D., said. "She was a champion for equity, a fierce advocate for teachers and staff, and a leader whose presence uplifted all those around her. She left this world as she lived it – fighting for what she believed in."

Her accomplishments were bold and thunderous in their success. Under her leadership, three schools were named California Model Schools, dual enrollment opportunities were expanded and the District became a Community Schools District with the support of a \$24.4 million grant. FAFSA completion, graduation rates and college course participation all increased, while initiatives focused on social-emotional learning and job opportunities for the District's most vulnerable youth were developed.

Most recently, Dinkins was [selected](#) as the 2024-25 Region 14 Administrator of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) – a reflection of her steadfast commitment to excellence and innovation in education.

"Dr. Dinkins' loss will be felt deeply across the community," Crosthwaite said. "Her vision, passion and unwavering belief in students will remain a guiding light in the continued work to serve Lynwood Unified. Rest in power, peace and love, Dr. Dinkins – our cherished colleague and friend."

PHOTO CAPTION:

LUSD_DINKINS: Lynwood Unified Deputy Superintendent Shawna Dinkins, Ed.D., died on Saturday, March 1, following a courageous and sudden battle with cancer. She was with the District for nearly seven years.

The mission of Lynwood Unified School District, the model urban school district, is to ensure each student fearlessly achieves their highest academic and personal aspirations while contributing to a diverse, global society through an evolving system distinguished by:

★ People of great character who inspire and lead by example ★ The instilling of courage to be creative ★ The transformative uses of technology
★ Safe and clean environments ★ The inclusion of all voices in our community through equity, access and justice