



Fontana Unified School District

Every Student Successful, Engaging Schools, Empowered Communities

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NEWS RELEASE

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Fontana Unified Teacher Named California League of Middle School's Region 10 Educator of the Year

FONTANA, CA – Monica Jauregui, an English Language Development (ELD) teacher at Harry S. Truman Middle School, shares a similar background with her students: her parents immigrated to the United States when they were in grade school, not knowing any English, and Jauregui herself was an English learner. Her experiences fuel her to ensure students of all backgrounds can thrive, leading her to take on multiple roles as an English Language Learner (ELL) monitor and Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Excel teacher.

In recognition of her passion for student success and drive to provide tailored educational opportunities for English learners, Jauregui has been named the California League of Middle School's Region 10 Educator of the Year. This honor places her in the running for the statewide Educator of the Year award amongst 11 California regions, scheduled to be announced in March 2026.

"Going into teaching, I immediately realized these students needed a specific kind of attention and guidance, and I wanted them to feel that someone believed in them," Jauregui said. "No matter where they go, they will always have at least one person cheering for them."

In her 14 years at Fontana Unified, Jauregui has leveraged her expertise to support historically disadvantaged student populations by strengthening language development, academic confidence, and long-term success for English Learner (EL) students. Her innovative instruction and commitment to creating an inclusive, empowering classroom environment have positioned her as a leader on campus and, according to Truman Principal Dr. Kristen Sandler who nominated Jauregui, a champion for all students and staff.

"Jauregui's impact extends beyond the classroom, and not only does she go the extra mile for our student community, but also for our staff and families," Sandler said. "Her tireless dedication and unwavering belief in the potential of every learner make her a truly deserving candidate for Educator of the Year."

Jauregui began teaching ELD in 2020, with the goal of helping students reach their full potential. After securing \$28,000 in Title funding, she launched the first AVID Excel class in Fontana Unified, a program geared toward strengthening language skills and boosting literacy for middle school EL students.

Since the introduction of AVID Excel, Truman has reclassified more English learners than any other school in the District for two consecutive years, including 96 students in the 2024-25 school year. More

than 76% of students in Jauregui's AVID Excel classes demonstrated measurable growth on the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) assessment.

According to Dr. Sandler, Jauregui's work reflects her commitment to providing a curriculum that is academically rigorous and developmentally responsive to adolescent learners, consistently using instructional methods that help students meet their goals and grow as lifelong learners.

"Going through ELD programs and reclassifying shows a lot of drive and motivation, and I want my students to know that they are capable of doing anything and everything they set their mind to," Jauregui said.

Her dedication to students extends beyond their academics. Jauregui fosters creativity, connection, and confidence through Truman's afterschool art club, a space where students can explore their talents and feel a sense of belonging. Her "I Wish My Teacher Knew" assignment offers students the opportunity to share personal stories, receive support, and be connected to resources in a safe environment.

In addition to her classroom achievements, Jauregui is a driving force in shaping schoolwide instruction and supporting her colleagues. She guides Truman's Professional Learning Community through data analysis and shares strategies and resources that elevate teaching practices across campus.

"Monica's dedication and compassion toward our students is an example of the excellence we strive for in Fontana Unified," Superintendent Miki R. Inbody said. "Her commitment embodies the heart of our mission, which is to ensure every student feels supported, empowered, and capable of achieving success."

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

CLMS_EDUCATOR_OF_THE_YEAR1: Monica Jauregui, an English Language Development (ELD) teacher at Harry S. Truman Middle School, has been named California League of Middle Schools Region 10 Educator of the Year for her dedication to supporting English learners and creating inclusive, empowering classrooms. She celebrates the honor while holding her award plaque.

CLMS_EDUCATOR_OF_THE_YEAR2: Monica Jauregui (third from left) of Harry S. Truman Middle School holds her award after being named California League of Middle Schools Region 10 Educator of the Year for her innovative practices supporting English learners and fostering academic confidence.

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