



BONITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education

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NEWS RELEASE

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Bonita Unified Honors Employees of the Year for Dedication to Student Success

SAN DIMAS/LA VERNE – Three Bonita Unified School District employees were recognized as the District’s 2026 Employees of the Year for their service to the BUSD community, highlighting the range of roles that support student success across the District.

Ramona Middle School Physical Education (PE) and Adaptive Physical Education (APE) teacher Peri Berkler was honored as the Certificated Employee of the Year; San Dimas High School Cafeteria Manager Christie Reilly was named Classified Employee of the Year; and Bonita High School Assistant Principal Joy Lindsay received the Management Employee of the Year award.

The annual recognitions celebrate certificated, classified, and management employees whose work strengthens school culture and supports student well-being.

“At Bonita Unified, every employee plays a role in helping students feel prepared for success,” Bonita Unified Superintendent Matt Wien said. “Peri Berkler, Christie Reilly, and Joy Lindsay represent the deep level of dedication that make our schools strong. We are proud to recognize their contributions and grateful for the difference they make each day.”

Berkler, who has served Ramona Middle School for 36 years, was recognized for her leadership in PE and APE. Her work has helped expand Ramona’s PE program through the development of a high ropes course and fitness lab, while her APE program has created inclusive opportunities for students with physical challenges to learn alongside their general education peers. Her program has also served as a model for future educators, with Cal Poly Pomona teacher candidates regularly visiting Ramona to observe her classes.

Reilly, who joined Bonita Unified in 2012, was honored for her work supporting students through food service at San Dimas High School. She began as a part-time employee before becoming cafeteria manager, building strong relationships with students by learning their names, remembering their favorite meals and creating a welcoming environment during meal service.

Reilly was also recognized for helping implement a new food cart to serve students more efficiently and for remaining flexible during schedule changes to ensure students continue to receive meals.

MORE



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Lindsay was recognized for a 30-year career in Bonita Unified, including 26 years at Bonita High School. Her service has included roles as a math teacher, ASB director and assistant principal, with the last nine years spent in site administration. Lindsay's nomination highlighted her support for students and staff, including assisting students through academic and personal challenges, supporting athletics and school activities and continuing to tutor students in math.

PHOTO CAPTION:

BUSD_EMPLOYEES_2026: Bonita Unified School District recognized its 2026 Employees of the Year, naming San Dimas High School Cafeteria Manager Christie Reilly as Classified Employee of the Year, Bonita High School Assistant Principal Joy Lindsay as Management Employee of the Year, and Ramona Middle School PE/APE teacher Peri Berkler as Certificated Employee of the Year.