

# Awards will honor those who help English learners

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■ Ceremony is part of Alameda County education conference

By Kristofer Noceda

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HAYWARD — Educators this weekend will honor colleagues who are dedicated to serving the state's large English-learning population.

The awards ceremony will take place during Alameda County Office of Education's Third Annual English Learner Conference, which features professional development workshops and expert speakers.

"Learning math and science while also learning English at the same time is a double challenge for these students," said conference organizer Nathalie Longree-Guevara, a literacy coordinator for the Alameda County Office of Education. "We know many educators in districts throughout the county do remarkable work and are committed to these students. It's al-

ways important to honor people making a difference in the lives of children."

About one-quarter of the more than 6 million California students enrolled in K-12 public schools are English learners. In Alameda County, 22 percent of students enrolled in public schools are also learning English, Longree-Guevara said.

Officials selected award winners based on nominations submitted to the county.

The awards and honorees:

■ Teachers of the Year — Sandra Molina of Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School in the Hayward district; Lyneil Wasser of H.A. Snow Elementary School, Newark; and Mark Zeljak of Irvington High School, Fremont.

■ Educators of the Year — Colleen Friery, para educator in the Castro Valley district, and Alicia Garcia, a teacher on assignment in the Alameda County Office of Education.

■ Dual Immersion/Bilingual

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Hayward, CA  
(Alameda Co.)  
Daily Review  
(Cir. D. 48,575)

JAN 29 2010

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

## Awards

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Teachers of the Year — Maida Cardenas of Grimmer Elementary in the Fremont and Esther Hurtado of Jackson Avenue Elementary in the Livermore Valley district.

■ Administrators of the Year — Jane Golden, director of curriculum and special projects for the Pleasanton district office and Linda San-

tillan, principal of Colonial Acres Elementary in San Lorenzo.

For more information call 510-670-4253 or go to [www.acoe.org](http://www.acoe.org).

Kristofer Noceda covers Cal State East Bay, Chabot College, Castro Valley, San Lorenzo and other unincorporated communities in the greater Hayward area. Contact him at 510-293-2479. Follow him at [Twitter.com/Noceda\\_Reports](http://Twitter.com/Noceda_Reports).

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