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Educators named County Teachers of the Year

Submitted By Autumn King

At the 28th annual Alameda County Teacher of the Year Awards Ceremony, teachers Kevin Gorham of Alameda Unified School District and Stephanie Taymuree of Oakland Unified School District were selected to represent Alameda County to compete for the title of 2017-18 California State Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Gorham teaches AP government and economics and leads the student-run radio station at Encinal Junior & Senior High School. On winning this award Gorham says, "Without teachers taking time out of their day to make sure I was on track, I don't know where I would be today. If I can make a difference like those teachers did for me, then I'm going to live a great life."

Mrs. Taymuree works with students with special needs in the Technology & Augmentative Communication for Learning Enhancement (TACLE) program at Oakland's Redwood Heights Elementary School. She notes, "I am a teacher because I love children and I love being able to help them love themselves. I am excited and honored to receive this award and share it with all of them."

The pair were selected from the 18 Alameda County district winners, after submitting an extensive application for panel review.

"Each year, we are honored to host this event in celebration of the district winning teachers," said L. Karen Monroe, Alameda County Superintendent of Schools. The celebratory event, hosted at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts held October 5, 2017. Eighteen district winners were recognized for their dedication and commitment to the impactful work they do with students.

2017 district winners in Alameda County:

Alameda County Office of Education - Veronica Aguilar, Burke Academy
Alameda Unified School District - Kevin Gorham, Encinal Junior & Senior High School
Castro Valley Unified School District - Maria Leyson, Marshall Elementary School
Dublin Unified School District - Cindy Seto, Kolb Elementary School
Eden Area Regional Occupational Program - Bill Deslaurier, Eden Area ROP Center
Emery Unified School District - Leslie Payne, Emery Secondary School
Fremont Unified School District - Victoria Quintana, Grimmer Elementary School
Hayward Unified School District - Rosa Escabado, Tyrrell Elementary School
Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District - Fenna Gatty, Altamont Creek Elementary School
Mission Valley Regional Occupational Program - Doug Nahale, Washington High School
New Haven Unified School District - Tina Bobadilla-Mastel, James Logan High School
Newark Unified School District - Olivia Rangel, Newark Memorial High School
Oakland Unified School District - LaRavian Battle, Sojourner Truth Independent Studies Program
Oakland Unified School District - Stephanie Taymuree, Redwood Heights Elementary School
Pleasanton Unified School District - Mario Hurtado, Village High School
San Leandro Unified School District - Kellie Morris, John Muir Middle School
Tri-Valley Regional Occupational Program - Nancy McNeil, Foothill High School

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