



PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Francisco Mata

PHONE: 619-750-6720 (cell)

San Ysidro School District is One of 17 Districts in the Nation Recognized as a “Distinguished District” for its STEM and Career Learning Program

San Ysidro, CA - San Ysidro School District (SYSD) was notified that it has earned the unique designation as a 2020-21 Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished District. SYSD is one of 17 districts in the United States to receive the honor. The award recognizes school districts who provide “transformative learning opportunities” utilizing PLTW programs for its students. The programs instituted by PLTW, a nonprofit organization that works with millions of students and teachers in PreK-12 grade across the U.S., are STEM based curriculum.

"Our district is so very proud of our phenomenal Sci-Phy Program, developed by our former Executive Director of Curriculum, Manuela Colom, and refined by current Executive Director of Educational Services, Cynthia Monreal González and our Lead Sci-Phy Teacher, Elva De Baca and our amazing team of Sci-Phy teachers," said Dr. Gina Potter, Superintendent. "Learning truly comes alive for students within the Sci-Phy Program which creatively folds the academic rigor of science into lively instructional lessons that involve the excitement of movement, music, and hands-on, project-based learning."

The PLTW Recognition honors districts committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. Through PLTW programs, students develop in-demand knowledge and skills that they will use both in school and for the rest of their lives, on any career path they take. As PLTW students progress through grades PreK-12, they are empowered to engage in problem-solving and process thinking, develop technical knowledge and skills, build communication skills, and explore career opportunities.

"It is a great honor to recognize San Ysidro School District for their unwavering commitment to provide students with an excellent educational experience despite the unusual circumstances and unique challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic presented to the educational landscape this past year," said Dr. Vince Bertram, President and CEO of PLTW. "They should be very proud of their achievements in unlocking their students' potential and equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in life beyond the classroom no matter what career path they choose."



“San Ysidro School District offers PLTW Launch to all students K-5 at all elementary school sites and as an elective at both middle schools,” said Cynthia Monreal González, Executive Director of Educational Services. “The program incorporates Integrated English language and language acquisition strategies throughout instruction to ensure meaningful access to a broad course of study for all of our students.”

SYSD is part of a community of PreK-12 schools, colleges and universities, and corporate and philanthropic partners across the country united around a passion for providing students with inspiring, engaging, and empowering learning opportunities.

“Our San Ysidro School District Sci-Phy TEAM is amazing! I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with them throughout this challenging school year,” said Nadia Aviles, SYSD Principal on Special Assignment. “The instruction they provide to our San Ysidro School District students is second to none! I am excited for this dedicated team to be recognized as one of only 17 districts nationwide!”

For more information about Project Lead The Way’s recognition program, visit pltw.org/our-programs/program-recognition.

If you have any questions, please contact Francisco Mata, Coordinator of Public Relations and Community Services, at (619) 428-4476, ext. 3033 or (619) 750-6720 (cell)

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