



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

Contact: Mayor's Office of Communications, 415-554-6131

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

MAYOR LEE ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF 2014-15 TEACHER & PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Mayor's Annual Awards Recognize Nine Outstanding San Francisco Public School Educators

San Francisco, CA—Mayor Edwin M. Lee today announced nine outstanding San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) educators, five teachers and four principals, as the Mayor's 2014-15 Teacher and Principal of the Year.

"A strong education can transform a child's life by opening the door to limitless possibilities," said Mayor Lee. "Over the course of their distinguished careers, these nine educators have inspired and empowered our City's young people. Thank you to all San Francisco's educators for your tireless commitment and dedication to our future innovators and leaders."

"As an educator, I know the power of providing a rich and rewarding education to all students," said SFUSD Superintendent Richard Carranza. "It is an honor to award these outstanding educators who bring their intellect and passion to work every day and create a positive impact on our students' lives."

In partnership with the Mayor's Office, SFUSD, the United Educators of San Francisco and the San Francisco Education Fund, the annual Mayor's Teacher of the Year Award honors five San Francisco teachers who are passionate for and dedicated to the education of San Francisco's young people.

The five Mayor's Teacher of the Year recipients are:

- Vera Diane Williams, Pre-K, Theresa S. Mahler Early Education School
- Lisa Tsukamoto, Kindergarten, Rosa Parks Elementary School
- Maria Yip, 2nd Grade, Robert Louis Stevenson Elementary School
- Karen Hadley, Physical Education, Claire Lilienthal K-8 Alternative School
- Heidi Hubrich Seretan, 12th Grade+/Transition, AccessSFUSD: The Arc

Mayor Lee also recognizes four Mayor's Principal of the Year Award recipients every year to celebrate their dedication, professionalism and hard work on behalf of San Francisco students. This special recognition is a collaborative effort with the Mayor's Office, SFUSD, and United Administrators of San Francisco.

The four Mayor's Principal of the Year recipients are:

- Candace D. Lee, Site Administrator, Noriega Early Education School
- Sophie Lee, Principal, Sunset Elementary School
- Kenneth Lee, Principal, Francisco Middle School
- Barnaby Payne, Principal, Abraham Lincoln High School

Each of the nine awardees will receive a monetary award, a crystal apple from Tiffany & Co. and an array of gifts and contributions from generous San Francisco institutions including the California Academy of Sciences, The Exploratorium, Beach Blanket Babylon and other organizations including San Francisco Travel, Gap, San Francisco 49ers, Golden State Warriors, Rickshaw Bags, Starbucks and many others. Each teacher and principal will also receive a new laptop from Microsoft.

Mayor Lee recognized the work of nine influential educators who each represent different grade levels: Preschool, Elementary, Middle and High School. These awardees were nominated by people in their community – students, parents, colleagues, educators, and other community members – for excellence in their classroom, their school and their City. The nomination and selection process for the Mayor’s Teacher and Principal of the Year Award occurs yearly. Nominations are accepted throughout the year. For more information, go to: www.sfgov.org/teacheraward and www.sfgov.org/principalaward.

###