



**RIVERSIDE COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION**

EDWIN GOMEZ, Ed.D. | County Superintendent of Schools

2023

Employee
RECOGNITION

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Riverside County Office of Education
Conference Center

RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Edwin Gomez, Ed.D.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Division of Governmental Relations

WELCOME

Ruth Pérez, Ed.D.
Riverside County Deputy Superintendent of Schools

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

2023 RCOE EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Lesa Richer
Division of Student Programs and Services

SITE SUPPORT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Cristina Geronimo
Division of Student Programs and Services

Elon Parker
Division of Student Programs and Services

COUNSELOR

Jamechia Prater-Moril
Division of Student Programs and Services

PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Arthur Kimball
Division of Student Programs and Services

CLASSIFIED ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

Craig Petinak
Office of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools

CERTIFICATED ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

Myra Sanchez
Division of Leadership, Wellness, and Student Services

MILO P. JOHNSON AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Sandra Guerrero
Office of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools

RETIREE AWARDS

Years of Service Recipients

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Stacey Acosta, SPS
Latress Anderson-Burnley, SPS
Deann Arredondo, SPS
Danielle Barrera, SPS
Georgia Berry, SPS
Norma Calderon, EES
Beatriz Camacho, SPS
Richard Canela, SPS
Manuel Carrasco, EES
Lourdes Castaneda, SPS
Marisela Cervantes Valle, SPS
Anita Christy, SPS
Jessie Cortez, ABS
Leticia Esau, SPS
Moynika Ferguson, SPS
Renee Ferris, SPS
Nataley Figueroa, SPS
Genevee Game, SPS
Sandra Garcia, EES
Elizabeth Garibay, EES
Beth Garshnick, SPS
Lindsay Gleason, ABS
Silvia Gonzalez Dives, EES
Brynn Grawe, PS
Angelina Guzman-Hayes, LWSS
Patricia Johns, EES
Dennis Large, ES
Mireya Lem, EES
Zenia Lopez, EES
Rosario Madrigal-Woods, ABS
Mary Martin-Myers, EES
Deanna McCarty, SPS
Thong Nguyen, SPS
Marjorie Nolasco, SPS
Jacquelyn Oakley, SPS
Vanessa Ocampo, SPS
Frances Palermo, EES
Maria Kathleen Payumo, SPS
Jessica Peraino, EES
Ruby Ramirez-Whitney, EES
Claribel Roman, SPS
Laura Sanchez, EES
Juana Santiago, EES
Rodolfo Urrutia, EES
Susan Woods, SPS
Raymundo Zepeda, SPS

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Amanda Ackerman, SPS
Alma Aguilar, EES
Malcolm Anderson, SPS
Jaymie Baiza, ES
Margarita Carrillo-Blades, SPS
Kathy Cathcart, SPS
Edna Conde, SPS
Sylvia Corral, SPS
Lorena Diaz, ABS
Joya Eilefson, ABS
Sherry Finley, SPS
Judith Flores, EES
Norma Franco, SPS
James Franklin, SPS
Irene Garcia, SPS
Cristina Geronimo, SPS
Gloria Gomez, SPS
Argelia Gonzalez, LWSS
Teneshia Hayden, SPS
Allison Haynes, LWSS
Connie Hensley, SPS
Andrea Hoyte, EES
Kuron Jabari, SPS
Greta Lancaster, EES
JoAnne Lauer, EES
Ofelia Leal, EES
Kyndal London, SPS
Rocio Lopez, EES
Sara Mendez, EES
Beatriz Moreno, EES
Sherra Nichols, ES
Adriana Osuna, EES
Patrick Patton, SPS
Bryan Peairs, SPS
Eva Perez, SPS
Susan Ream, SPS
Karen Regal, ABS
Viridiana Reyes, EES
Melissa Reynoso, SPS
Magdalena Robles, SPS
Johannah Schoebel, ABS
Jeffrey Shimizu, ABS
Angelica Silva, EES
Jesikhaa Truslow, PS
Miriam Vargas, EES
Charles Viramontes, EES
Shelli Wozolek, SPS
Christina Wyrembek, SPS

Years of Service Recipients

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Noemi Alvarez, EES
Tashua Archer, EES
Geneen Barreras, PS
Laura Barrios, SPS
Delia Becerra, SPS
Lisa Biesiada, SPS
Nancy Casper, SPS
J. Lionel Castro, SPS
Christina Coleman, EES
Theresa Copple, SPS
Carla Crow, SPS
Andrea Cuellar, SPS
Joy Deyo, SPS
Jared Ellis, ABS
Christopher Fittro, SPS
Jacklynn Guess, SPS
Jared Guevara, SPS
Vershall Harkness, ABS
Noemi Hernandez, EES
Jonathan Hess, SPS
Seth Knight, ABS
Ylga Laster-Barrow, SPS
Nancy Leon, EES
Helen Lopez, EES
Lylene Mayorga, SPS
Biljana Milankovski, EES
Laneasha Moore, SPS
Ashwin Nair, ABS
Silvia Pizarrocruz, EES
Edna Reid, SPS
Maria Reyes, SPS
Alicia Reynoso, SPS
Sylvia Rodriguez, SPS
Yesenia Rodriguez, EES
Paula Shigo, EES
Maria Solis, EES
Alicia Suarez, EES
Belia Tamayo, EES
Sylvia Velasco, ABS
Chaoping Wang, EES
Alayne Wilson, ES

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Rosalina Aguilar, EES
Lacy Arthur, SPS
Elizet Barajas, EES
Jennifer Bryan, SPS
Guadalupe Cano, EES
Carol Chism, EES
Gwen Cresswell, ABS
Christiane Deaton, SPS
Cindi Eckhart, SPS
Lori Hepler, ABS
Araseli Jaquez, SPS
Renee Kapsner, EES
Lavonne Lee, SPS
Patricia Lopez, EES
Ronald Lynn, ABS
Yvette Morales, SPS
Lori Nava, SPS
Margarita Oviedodemoctezum, EES
Shara Perkins, ABS
Michelle Sanders, EES
Lisa Schifano, EES
Princess Solomon, ES
Yesenia Sudbrack, EES

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Kay Clayton, SPS
Cathy Cornejo, ES
Bertha Dominguez, SPS
Mirna Pierce, SPS
Colleen Quinones, SPS
Irene Reyes, SPS
Carmen Rivas, SPS

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Earl Burts, ABS
Michael Diaz, PS
Joanne Kleveland, SPS
Richard Melton, SPS
Gina Pierson, SPS
Salvador Roman, ABS

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Herbert Weber, SPS

Award Recipient

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Lesa Richer

Office/School Secretary

Division of Student Programs and Services

Based at the Don F. Kenny Regional Learning Center in Indio, Lesa supports school nutrition and textbook programs for RCOE's Alternative Education Unit. Colleagues describe Lesa as "approaching each task in the right way, with the right attitude, at just the right pace." During COVID, Lesa assisted with the delivery of food to several RCOE sites due to a shortage of staff and to ensure that meals were available for students at all sites. Additionally, Lesa has taken on the responsibility of tracking meal counts on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis to ensure accurate claim reimbursement reports. The leadership, dedication, and partnerships she has brought to her role was instrumental in the RCOE school nutrition program receiving a 100 percent score during the last state administrative review.

LESA'S MESSAGE:

I am deeply honored and humbled to be recognized as the recipient of the RCOE Classified Employee of the Year award. This recognition must be shared with my team members of the School Nutrition and Textbook Program. They are the force behind the daily efforts to give quality services to our students at the level that we serve. Their efforts are the true reason for the success of our programs. I am grateful to work with these fantastic teams. I also appreciate Lacy Lenon Arthur and Tamara Smith for their leadership. Their full support of the program really makes a positive difference. This recognition further motivates me to do my best to assist the teams continuously serving the students with the highest level of services to help them fulfill every day with nutrition and education to succeed in school. I am truly grateful for this recognition.

Award Recipient

SITE SUPPORT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Cristina Geronimo

Intensive Behavior Intervention Specialist
Division of Student Programs and Services

Located at the Innovative Horizons Charter School at Nan Sanders in Perris, Cristina exemplifies the title of site support in her work with Reach Autism students. She has been with RCOE for 14 years, and consistently makes extra time to work with teachers and staff to model how to implement evidence-based practices. She develops data collection methods and improvises for each students' unique needs by coaching in a proactive manner that allows staff to ask questions so they may make adjustments while being guided, not criticized. Her colleagues describe her as having the "magic touch" to be able to walk into a classroom and make adjustments in real time to improve the functioning of the class. Cristina's approach helps to decrease challenging behavior issues and improves delivery of instruction efficiently and effectively.

CRISTINA'S MESSAGE:

It is a great honor to accept this award and see how much my colleagues recognize my hard work and dedication. I love my job and I try to put my heart and soul into it. I am pleased to know that I am making a difference! I am very thankful and fortunate for my remarkable team and colleagues for their continued support, and dedication as it takes every single one of us to help make a difference in our students' lives.

Award Recipient

SITE SUPPORT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Elon Parker

Speech-Language Pathologist
Division of Student Programs and Services

Now in her 19th year at RCOE, Elon Parker wears many hats while working with students in RCOE's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Auditory/Oral Program at Enchanted Hills Elementary School in Perris. Her approach goes beyond the desire for students to communicate, as she is committed to seeing the whole child by sharing observations with all the team members to identify all factors that may affect the student's ability to learn, communicate, and navigate his/her school environment and thrive in all areas. Students love Elon for her kind, fun, and nurturing personality, while parents consistently rave about her dedication to their children and her passion for working with students with hearing loss. Whether working with students who are three years old or twelve years old, her goal is the same—to help each student reach their fullest communication, academic, social, and community involvement potential.

ELON'S MESSAGE:

I am honored and grateful to be recognized as a 2023 RCOE Site Support Employee of the Year. I humbly accept this award on behalf of RCOE's skilled team of dedicated Speech-Language Pathologists and Speech-Language Pathology Assistants. We thrive on helping students reach their full communication potential. We have the pleasure of partnering with the educational team to "move the ball forward" for our unique and diverse student population. The synergy of a dedicated team is always greater than the sum of its individual parts. As for my part, I will continue to strive to be a meaningful member of the team, to exceed expectations, grow/learn, and be open to the input of others. "Speech-Language Pathologist" is not just my job title, it's integral to who I am. For me, this award serves as an outward acknowledgement that others enjoy my contributions to our students and organization as much as I have enjoyed contributing. Thank you again!

Award Recipient

COUNSELOR



Jamechia Prater-Moril

Counselor

Division of Student Programs and Services

Jamechia Prater-Moril is a shining example of equity and access in action. She is continuously removing barriers and providing opportunities for students to succeed while expanding their educational journey beyond their current participation in RCOE programs. Most notably, she coordinated the UCR Dual Enrollment program for the past three years, which has more than tripled in student participants during that time. Jamechia has been a key figure in assisting students with completing the FAFSA, completing college applications, supporting students with social-emotional learning, and establishing and developing college and career fairs at regional learning centers and court schools. She has also worked with higher education partners to develop new protocols and timelines that led to an increase in pathway retention of 27% from the prior year.

JAMECHIA'S MESSAGE:

It is with immense gratitude that I thank those who nominated me for this award. It is gratifying to be honored and I share this honor with our students. This recognition allows me to shine the light brighter for our students who are identified as some of the most marginalized in our state. I would like to take the opportunity to reframe their positions as the most prolific, resilient, opportunity seizing, ambitious, and preserving students that I have the greatest fortune to be of service to. As the School Counselor and Dual Enrollment Facilitator for our 13 Court and Community Schools, I have the privilege to empower our students to envision themselves beyond their present circumstances and to prepare for a life of excellence where their dreams and wishes are fulfilled. Within this position, because of who our students are, inclusive to the creative and nurturing space that RCOE provides; I thank you for this recognition.

Award Recipient

PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR



Arthur Kimball

Principal
Division of Student Programs and Services

Arthur Kimball is more than 'just a principal', as he serves as a principal over many different programs extending into Blythe, the adult education program (Desert Edge), jail and day reporting center sites (DRC), safehouse programming, and now juvenile halls. In his 7th year with RCOE, he participates on Alternative Education teams that focus on everything from LCAP and AVID, to curriculum and MTSS. Colleagues report how he deftly works with upset parents, and by the end of challenging conversations, has given them a sense of ease and comfort knowing that their students will be experiencing the excellence of RCOE's Alternative Education programs. He previously worked with the Coachella Valley USD, which provided expertise and knowledge of the community which helps endear him to families who recognize that he is from the region and can support students beyond what a "regular" principal could do.

ARTHUR'S MESSAGE:

I would first like to acknowledge that no award or recognition is an individual accomplishment, but rather a reflection of an amazing team. Incredible people in both my personal, and professional, life who have given me the support to be successful surround me. My mother, Barbara Kimball, who showed me the value of education and how it can transform a family, was my first motivator to try this career. My wife, Elizabeth, and my three sons, Richard, Jacob, and Nathaniel, have sacrificed to allow me the ability to dedicate myself to this work. My work family, whether it was community school, adult school, or the court schools, have allowed me to look forward to coming to work every day. This recognition shines a spotlight on the work that WE do in Alternative Education. My hope is that we continue to make a positive and meaningful impact on the lives of the students we serve. I am genuinely humbled at the honor, appreciative of the recognition, and forever grateful to everybody who has supported me on this journey. Thank you.

Award Recipient

CLASSIFIED ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR



Craig Petinak

Director

Office of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools

Craig Petinak doesn't just work for RCOE and the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools. His work has a ripple effect across all 23 districts in the county that uplifts the excellence and heart within public education. Now in his 10th year at RCOE, Craig's human-centered work blends the creative and strategic with the tactical and timely. From crisis communications and authoring press releases, to leading video productions and crafting internal newsletters, Craig also supports the school public relations professionals within each district to help them elevate their own schools, students, and programs. With his award-winning team of creative designers, communicators, and video producers, Craig is an unofficial chief storyteller for the transformational impact of education.

CRAIG'S MESSAGE:

Bob Burg once said, "Your influence is determined by how abundantly you place other people's interests first." The swiveling of this spotlight around to shine on my team, and our collective efforts, fundamentally conflicts with my approach of humbly lifting up those around me every single day. None of these accolades happen without an award-winning team that is as focused on the work, as we are on helping each other succeed. Thank you for bringing the best of yourselves to work every day and helping me to do the same.

I'd like to thank the mentors in my life who inspire me to keep growing, the three county superintendents who have given me the opportunity to raise the bar for communications, and my family and fellow educators for encouraging me to give of myself and my God-given gifts to elevate all those around me.

Award Recipient

CERTIFICATED ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR



Myra Sanchez

Director

Division of Leadership, Wellness, and Student Services

Myra Sanchez began her career in education as a teacher in the Coachella Valley Unified School District, serving as a reading intervention teacher and then Kindergarten teacher. She began her career with RCOE in 2005 as a Program Specialist in Early Childhood Education for the Migrant Education Program and has served as the director of the program since 2015. Myra has created programs that guarantee student success, such as the Migrant Career Academy Program, which allows migrant students to intern in professional job settings during the summer to gain valuable real-life experiences. Based in the Indio office, Myra's broad range of experience and key local partnerships are truly helping raise the achievement of migrant education program students and closing opportunity gaps across Riverside County.

MYRA'S MESSAGE:

It is a great honor to be the recipient of the Certificated Administrator award for a career that allows me to practice what I have been taught my entire life – "Do unto others."

As the Director of the Migrant Education Program, my position allows for my team and I to develop programs and services that facilitate student graduation and college & career readiness, while exposing students to real-life experiences that assist in building confidence and character. I am privileged to work alongside so many talented leaders and educators throughout Riverside County who encourage my work and assist me to be a champion for my students.

I have been in the field of education for over 30 years. In my time as an educator, I have served students in Pre-K through high school from diverse backgrounds. However, my time in Migrant Education has been the most rewarding. Witnessing former students return to express their gratitude for the migrant programs and share their successes has been most rewarding. I accept this award for myself, for my work family and for the migrant community that shares the work and responsibilities to ensure student success!

Award Recipient

MILO P. JOHNSON AWARD OF DISTINCTION



Sandra Guerrero

Administrative Assistant to the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools
Office of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools

In her 17th year at RCOE, Sandra serves as secretary to the board, and ensures that all policies, procedures, and legal requirements are followed. Her attention to detail, organization skills, and vast experience are key to her successful ongoing support of board committees, workshops, meetings, retreats, and other matters related to internal and external partners. She has diligently kept the Board on the right side of all policies, procedures, and legal requirements most recently helping RCOE navigate the appointment of a new trustee as well as coordinating the process to update Board policies. It is with a spirit of generosity that Sandra supports several district Board Administrative Assistants through complicated, sensitive, and legal matters. Her expertise has been invaluable during appointments and recall efforts, school district boundary petitions, and supporting our County and Joint County (San Bernardino and Riverside) School Board associations. Sandra was named the 2023 Milo P. Johnson Award for her exemplary service to not only the Riverside County Office of Education but to school districts and educational organizations in the Inland Empire.

SANDRA'S MESSAGE:

Thank you to our County Board Members for the honor of being selected for their Milo P. Johnson Award of Distinction. It's a privilege to work at RCOE and one that I never take for granted. Being given this award by people I consider friends is humbling and very special. Thank you for your unwavering support and trust.

Retirees

Elizet Barajas, SPS
25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Michael (Mike) Barney, ES
21 YEARS OF SERVICE

Delia Becerra, SPS
20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Dean Berry, SPS
12 YEARS OF SERVICE

Georgia Berry, SPS
10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Deborah Blue, SPS
28 YEARS OF SERVICE

Irma Castaneda, SPS
23 YEARS OF SERVICE

Angilberto Castro, ABS
29 YEARS OF SERVICE

Deborah Clark, SPS
21 YEARS OF SERVICE

David Coates, ABS
13 YEARS OF SERVICE

Catherine Covey-Jordan, SPS
21 YEARS OF SERVICE

Lorena Diaz, ABS
15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Barbara Esther, EES
23 YEARS OF SERVICE

Maria Estrada, EES
20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Donna Flores, EES
27 YEARS OF SERVICE

John Gable, ABS
11 YEARS OF SERVICE

Manuela Garcia, EES
27 YEARS OF SERVICE

Paula Hathaway, EES
26 YEARS OF SERVICE

Constance Hinkle, SPS
7 YEARS OF SERVICE

David Hollis, ABS
27 YEARS OF SERVICE

Patricia Ingram, SPS
24 YEARS OF SERVICE

Stacy Kuhn, EES
18 YEARS OF SERVICE

Dennis Large, ES
10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Helen Lopez, EES
20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mark Mullion, SPS
21 YEARS OF SERVICE

Silas Okereke, SPS
16 YEARS OF SERVICE

Beverly Ortega, ES
17 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mary Redondo, EES
24 YEARS OF SERVICE

Tina Rondilone, SPS
20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Alma Salas, SPS
26 YEARS OF SERVICE

Calvin Smith, SPS
8 YEARS OF SERVICE

Cheryl Stuck, ABS
3 YEARS OF SERVICE

Denise White, SPS
26 YEARS OF SERVICE

Christina Wyrembek, SPS
15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Marco Zavala-Garcia, ABS
13 YEARS OF SERVICE

Elke Zoske, EES
22 YEARS OF SERVICE

Dr. Milo P. Johnson

JUNE 17, 1914 - DECEMBER 25, 2004



The Milo P. Johnson Award of Distinction was created in 1999 in honor of long-time Riverside County Board of Education Member Dr. Milo P. Johnson. The recipients are selected by the Riverside County Board of Education. The award honors employees who continually exhibit extraordinary service and support in all they do. The recipients demonstrate and possess traits and characteristics such as continuously seeking opportunities to innovate, improve, and expand their services, understand their role in contributing to student success, and provide service that is prompt, courteous, honest, and accurate in anticipating and responding to the needs of those we serve.

1999

Gary Taylor

2000

Gerri Israelson

2001

Marilyn Warner

2002

Clara Rodriguez

2003

Ginger Andrews

2004

Rick Strom

2005

Moana Hendricks

2006

Vicki Saucedo

2007

Theresa Swickla

2008

Karen Radtke

2009

Mary Liette

2010

Kelly Londenberg

2011

Adriana Marshall

2012

June Miller

2013

Sylvia Gonzalez

2014

Lanelle Gordin

2015

Joan Patrick

2016

Chun-Wu Li, Ph.D.

2017

**Janice Delagrammatikas
Barbara Moore**

2018

**Deborah Clark
Lynn Smith**

2019

**Steve Ayon
Jennifer Beggs**

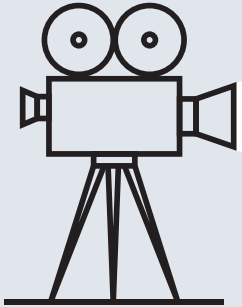
2021

Tracey Case

2022

JoAnne Lauer

Share the Celebration!



WANT TO SEE TONIGHT'S **Employee Recognition** VIDEOS AGAIN?

ALL VIDEOS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE TOMORROW.
SHARE THEM WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY.



www.rcoe.us/employee-recognition

**Do you work with
someone extraordinary?**

Be sure to nominate your fellow employees
for next year's recognition.

We Celebrate You.

Thank you for your commitment to education and our community. We are privileged to serve the educational community and recognize all that you do to help students and our community thrive.

SCHOOLSFIRST 
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Insured by NCUA.



Dr. Sheela H.
Department Chair, Counseling
Member Since 2014



RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO THE RCOE FOUNDATION

Your donation will help provide vital scholarship funding to deserving, disadvantaged high school seniors in Riverside County.



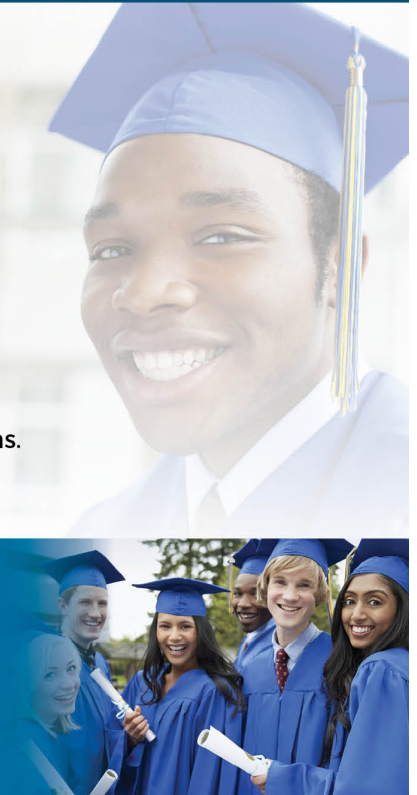
To select how you would like to participate as a donor, visit our website at www.rcoe.us/foundation.

You may also call (951) 826-6345 or email elewis@rcoe.us for your contribution options.

The RCOE Foundation is an independently incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization affiliated with the Riverside County Office of Education. RCOE Foundation – Tax ID 37-1704913

*With your support,
we can keep the flame of
knowledge burning brightly at
the Riverside County Office of
Education Foundation.*

PROVIDING
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR SUCCESS IN LEARNING
AND IN LIFE



Thank you

Riverside County Office of Education
employees for your dedication and service to
the students in Riverside County.