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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

Feb. 23, 2024

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

Surprise, excitement, appreciation and gratitude are some of the sentiments shared today by five members of the TR team when they learned they have been selected as 2024 District Classified School Employees of the Year.

With their colleagues nearby to cheer and offer congratulations, I was delighted to share the fantastic news with the following employees:

- Kiana Davis, Office Manager, Fairbanks Elementary
- Robert Whittaker, Head Custodian, Vista Nueva High
- Kristen Hancock, Paraeducator 1, Westside Elementary
- Mary Dresen, Yard and Duty Assistant, Kohler Elementary
- Joshua Crotts, Instructional Materials Coordinator, Winona

Each employee embodies the best of our school community, and I was delighted to personally thank each of them on behalf of the Board of Trustees, our entire staff and the students we serve, for their personal commitment to jobs well done. Their passion for their work and their genuine care for our students and colleagues are a testament to the remarkable individuals they are. Their work ethic is clear and their warm and grateful responses made the day all the more special.

They will now move on to represent Twin Rivers Unified in the Sacramento County Office of Education's Classified School Employees of the Year program which recognizes employees for their exemplary service. I believe that our classified employees are the glue that holds our organization together, with responsibilities ranging from transportation to technical support and office administration to student aides and so much more, these dedicated people attend to the myriad responsibilities that allow our schools to run smoothly so that student needs are met.

The selection process begins with schools nominating a member of their classified team for the award. Then, qualified individuals are invited to participate in the District selection process that includes a formal interview with a three-member panel to determine, based on established criteria, who will represent TR at the county level (Sacramento County Office of Education). If we have staff selected at the county level, they move on to the state level. Since 2012, 36 TR employees have been selected as Sacramento County Classified Employees of the Year in various categories. We have had a California Classified School Employee of the Year in 2021, 2020 and 2010.

To Kiana, Robert, Kristen, Mary and Joshua, you make us proud, and we wish you all the best moving forward. Thank you for all that you do to help make TR a great place for our students and families.

Around TR!

Two exceptional TR student-athletes are in Bakersfield for the 2024 CIF State Wrestling Championships at Mechanics Bank Arena. Congratulations to Rio Linda High School's Kathryn Hingano and Andrew James Thomas. Kathryn is the first RLHS wrestler since 1987 to win a SJS Masters title at the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Boys and Girls Masters Meet last weekend in Stockton. She is also the returning runner-up from last year's state tournament in her weight class. Andrew is the first RLHS boys wrestler since 2014 to qualify for state. Wishing them the best at the state level. We are #TRUSD Proud!

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Martinez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Steve Martinez, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Twin Rivers Unified