



ALHAMBRA

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Good News Updates from the Superintendent

January 2019

Dear AUSD Family,

Happy 2019! We have a great year ahead. This Good News Update is about Gratitude and Celebration.

Because we have so many extraordinary teachers and staff members here in AUSD, we launched the **Game Changer Awards** to celebrate two AUSD employees every month. Nominated by colleagues, parents and students, the Game Changer winners all have one thing in common: they are all brilliant relationship builders. Their contagious spirit of encouragement and connection inspires everyone in their orbit. We want you to meet our first eight award winners:

Joel Sanchez	Repetto Senior Custodian
Jurgio Valinhas	Alhambra High Teacher, Honors/AP Spanish
Nicole Manalang	San Gabriel High BTA Lead, Teacher, World History, AP Government
Agustin Ramos	District Safety and Security Guard
deserie Bradvica	District Literacy Instructional Specialist TK-8
Anthony France	Alhambra High Campus Supervisor
Valerie Lukjaniec	Ynez Instructional Specialist, Special Education Teacher 8th Grade
Michael Dergar	LIFT North Occupational Health Instructional Aide

Relationships drive education. With that in mind, we want to introduce you to [HONORED.org](http://www.honored.org), a nonprofit designed to keep great teachers K-12 in the classroom. How? Students or parents nominate a teacher, past or present, by writing how that teacher made a difference in the student's life. Each month, an Honored Teacher wins a \$5000 award and a nationally known journalist tells the story of the teacher and student. Often teachers never know the life-changing impact they have on their students. Let them know. Learn how at www.honored.org/nominate/

Another reason for celebration here in AUSD: **Countdown to 2020 Rose Parade!** The AUSD All District Marching Band will perform at the 2020 Rose Parade! Like us on our AUSD Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ahambrausd/> and follow us on Twitter @ahambrausd to keep up with the journey and learn how you can participate in this incredible opportunity for our whole community to shine. Visit www.aef4kids.com Rose Parade Band.

As always, we thank you very much for being part of the Alhambra Unified community.

With warm appreciation,
Denise Jaramillo Superintendent Alhambra USD



**Game Changer Award Winners Inspire Students, Parents and
Colleagues by Creating Hope + Opportunity**
*Their relationship-building strengths are changing outcomes for everyone
around them.*

These beloved AUSD employees' gifts for empathy and connection, – and their love for their work – make it easy to see why you nominated them for the Game Changer Award. Each one brings a sense of mission to their efforts to empower all those around them. Please join me in thanking and congratulating these award winners for their contagious energy and dedication to our AUSD community. Nominate a Game Changer at www.ausd.us/badges/.

Joel Sanchez
Repetto
Senior Custodian



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Alhambra High Teacher
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Special Education Teacher
8th Grade



Michael Dergar
LIFT North
Occupational Health Instructional Aide





Honor a Teacher Who Made an Impact on Your Life: The HONORED.org Award Lifts Up Your Teacher and Elevates All Teachers

Each month, the winning [honored.org](http://www.honored.org) teacher receives \$5000 + a national news story about the relationship between the extraordinary teacher + student whose life was changed

We know expressing gratitude gives us the gift of improving our own spirit and health. Take a moment in this new year to thank a teacher, past or present, for the transformational impact they had on your life. Nominate by visiting www.honored.org.

AUSD alum and *Los Angeles Times* “Column One” editor, Steve Padilla, introduced us to [honored.org](http://www.honored.org) last May when he wrote the moving story about a New Mexico teacher and his student, who called the teacher “the father I never had.” Here is the story: <http://www.honored.org/honoree/manuel-mendoza/>





Celebrate the Rose Parade 2020 Invitation to the AUSD All District Marching Band

*A-once-in-a-lifetime national stage for the band is an opportunity to unite
as a community*

On the march to our 2020 Rose Parade, let's join together to make this an extraordinary experience for the whole community. It takes all of us to make sure that the AUSD All District Band students, families and our three Band directors have what they need to be fabulous on January 1, 2020.

Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to keep up with Countdown 2020 Rose Parade. Order Rose Parade Band items at www.aef4kids.com.

If you have a good news story we want you to share it. Please write gilbert_toby@ausd.us

