



ALHAMBRA

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

October 27, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Alhambra High School's Moor Friends Program Recognized with 2018 Top Statewide Educational Honor

Alhambra, CA – Alhambra High School's Moor Friends program has been chosen as one of 51 recipients of the state's leading educational honor, the Golden Bell Award. The Golden Bell Awards, now in their 39th year, are sponsored by the California School Boards Association to recognize outstanding public school programs for innovation, sustainability and best practices that facilitate positive student outcomes. Alhambra Unified School District will receive its award at a recognition reception and ceremony on Thursday, November 29, from 5 to 7 p.m. at CSBA's Annual Education Conference and Trade Show in San Francisco at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis located at 780 Mission Street.

Alhambra High School founded Moor Friends in the interest of nurturing a growing culture of young, socially conscientious, and egalitarian leaders. Moor Friends is devoted to establishing long lasting partnerships between all members of the student body. Moor Friends are forging bonds that are based on a deep respect for the wealth of diversity within the human condition and a profound understanding of the nuances that inform each individual's unique experience. A team of instructors that include Wendy Osawa, Melissa Martinez, and Jamie Peralta, spearheads the club. This triumvirate of advisers is assisted by the diligent leadership of Emi Takemoto and Nicole Hui, Alhambra High School students who serve as Co-Presidents. Alhambra High School principal Duane Russell, along with staff members, support and encourage the program which exemplifies and values the contribution of every student by acknowledging that all students contribute, including our special education students.

"Moor Friends is a master class in how to grow a school culture of respect, inclusion, trust, empathy and resilience — both in the general education students and the special education students. Moor Friends is shining example of how to build safe schools and better societies: Create a model for helping those most vulnerable among us. When we teach help-seeking and help-giving as strengths, every student flourishes," says Alhambra Unified Superintendent Denis Jaramillo. "We are honored to receive the 2018 CBSA Golden Bell Award for the Alhambra High School Moor Friends program and so proud of the exceptional work by our students and the Alhambra High School and District team that made the award possible."

A 17-member judging panel made up of experts from school districts and county offices of education reviewed the written entries and made the initial recommendations for the awards. On-site validators assessed the programs in action. This year's awards are presented to school districts and county offices of education helping students achieve through after-school programs, mentoring, instructional interventions, use of data and other innovations.

“The Golden Bell recipients exemplify the spirit of innovation and excellence for which all of California’s public schools strive,” said CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy. “The Golden Bell Awards reflect the depth and breadth of outstanding education offerings in our state, and demonstrate the tenacity, vision and dedication of school leaders across California.” To learn more about the Golden Bell awards, visit the California School Boards Association’s Golden Bell website at <https://gb.csba.org/>.

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CSBA is a nonprofit education association representing the elected officials who govern public school districts and county offices of education. With a membership of nearly 1,000 educational agencies statewide, CSBA brings together school governing boards and district and county office administrators to advocate for effective policies that advance the education and well-being of the state’s more than 6 million school-age children. Learn more at www.csba.org.

Alhambra Unified iSchool District is dedicated to its richly culturally diverse PK-12 community of 17,000 students through a whole student excellence + equity + social emotional learning approach. Learn more at www.ausd.us and [@alhambrausd](https://twitter.com/alhambrausd)

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