



OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Community Schools, Thriving Students*

# Ceremonial Presentation Honoring OUSD's Classified School Employees of the Year April 28, 2021



[www.ousd.org](http://www.ousd.org)



@OUSDnews

# Ask of the Board

---

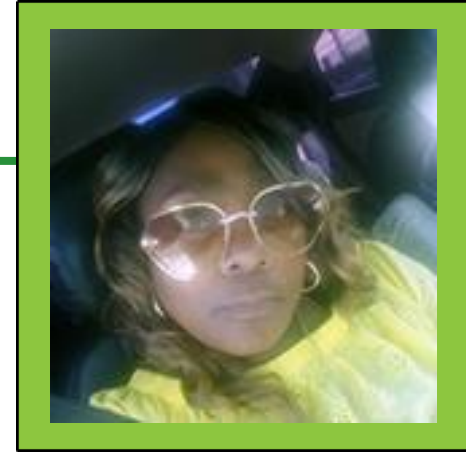
- This item is presented for the purpose of the adoption of Resolution No. 2021-0206 - Recognition - District's 2020-2021 - Classified School Employees of the Year in nine categories:
  - Paraprofessional
  - Clerical & Administrative Services
  - Transportation Services
  - Food & Nutrition Services
  - Custodial and Maintenance Services
  - Security Services
  - Health & Student Services
  - Technical Services
  - Skilled Trades

# Outline

---

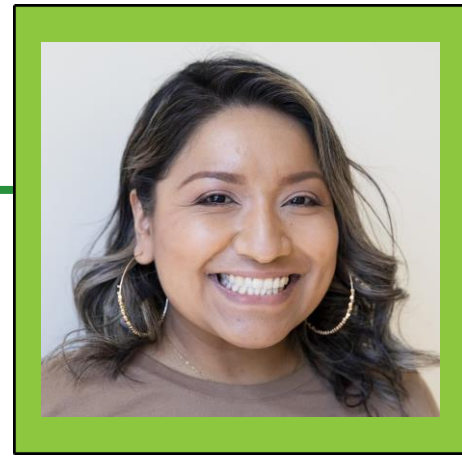
- Recognize and pay special tribute to the tireless efforts and outstanding performance
- We will feature nine of our most experienced, excellent classified line employees
- The order of the awardees is in lined with the categories as they have been named by the California Department of Education

# Paraprofessional



- **Tanya Beck** is a Para-Educator at Coliseum College Prep Academy - She has served Oakland Students for 31 years
  - “When I first started, I was so nervous, but people told me, ‘You’ll meet Tanya, and you’ll be fine.’ They were right.”
  - “She is one of the sparkles here”!
  - “When I came onboard Tanya helped me understand our kids needed to be included in every aspect of what it is to be a student, including field trips and community involvement. Tanya takes initiative to ensure it happens; she has a lot of passion. . .”

# Clerical & Administrative Services



- **Michelle Ortiz** is an Administrative Assistant I, Bilingual at Garfield Elementary - She has served Students for 6 years
  - “She always puts her own organized take on our systems and processes, making *everything* more efficient . . .”
  - “Everyone on the Garfield Elementary staff knows the impact Michelle has on our entire school community and beyond. She consistently does her best every day. . .”
  - “She could be seen on the yard, in the cafeteria with students, responding to requests for classroom student support, or checking on teachers when she knew they had had a tough day. . .”

# Transportation Services



- **Solomon Hutalla** is a Truck Driver I for Warehouse Distribution and has served the District for 11 years
  - “He helped distribute Chromebooks, hotspots, and additional needed technology that came through for school sites so students could do distance learning. . .”
  - “I like to say we’re kind of like ninjas or Amazon Prime, what folks need just shows up and everyone’s amazed at how it got there so fast! He just makes it happen. . .”
  - “He is no longer relegated to only food deliveries, now it’s technology, mail, furniture, supplies *and* Personal Protective Equipment; Solomon always has a great attitude about it all. . .”

# Food & Nutrition Services



- **Nakheu Saephanh** is a Food Service Manager for Central Kitchen/Nutritional Services and has served the District for 13 years
  - “Nakheu has been among the front-line workers during COVID, including providing oversight of the Central Oakland’s Grab-and-Go and weekly home delivery of meals. . .”
  - “Everyone in Nakheu’s unit works together, and they all help each other. This is the climate she sets. . .”
  - “Nakheu is pretty much the calm during the storm no matter what obstacles come her way, she knocks them down. . .”

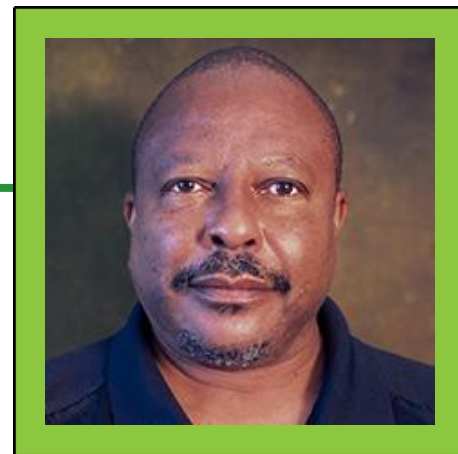
# Custodial & Maintenance Services



- **Gregory Houchins** is the Acting Head Custodian for the LaEscuelita Complex and has served the District for 7 years
  - “Greg is a character with character, always ready to solve a problem or share a joke, you can hardly turn around before he's finished anything asked with a smile. Going the extra mile every day is his norm. . .”
  - “Outstanding worker! Everyone who interacts with him knows they can count on him, and his work is always excellent. . .”
  - “Greg is holding down Head Custodian duties, and from his cell phone to boot, since all of the available Chromebooks are out with the students. . .”

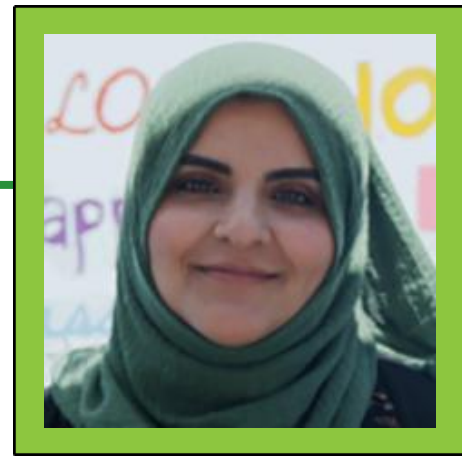


# Security Services



- **Melvin Phillips** is a School Security Officer II for Fremont High School and has served the District for 27 years
  - “Managing employees often falls solely on the shoulders of admin, but Mr. Phillips is an incredible resource to our staff and school and knows contracts and policies backwards and forwards. . . .”
  - “He has an authority and presence that people respect, appreciate and value. How he comes across is as a very genuine person, and very true. You can’t fake that. He’s a genuine, kind, and respectful person. . . .”
  - “I don’t know what magic he holds that I don’t, but he can get kids out of the zone they’re in. . . .he can navigate really difficult situations. . . .”

# Health & Student Services



- **Munera Mohsin** is a District Family Engagement Specialist for the Office of Equity and has served Middle School Students for 5 years
  - “Ms. Munera creates a safe space for our families to ask questions; this is especially important in a time like this where Muslim Americans don't feel as comfortable or confident enough to reach out. . .”
  - “She is a vital connection between Oakland's growing Yemeni community and the Student Welcome Center. With her support, students have enrolled in OUSD schools quickly and seamlessly. . .”
  - “Munera established Hijab Day at WOMS. Many non-Yemeni students wear a hijab . . . to gain a better understanding of what it means . . .”

# Technical Services



- **Dan Augustine** is a Senior Network Engineer for Tech Services and has served the District for 6 years
  - “Dan designed our Zoom board meetings and published a guide that was distributed across California for other districts to follow. He put the whole world together in no time. . . .”
  - “With a smile and a pause to ponder, Dan finds a way to say yes when no is the easy answer. He figures out how to make things possible when it's more work for him but best for the students. . . .”
  - “Dan has been instrumental to our district as he has led a huge amount of technology projects over time which moved our network from barely working to a highly functioning system, usable for education . . . .”

# Skilled Trades



- **Robert Strong, Jr.** is Lead Painter for Buildings and Grounds and has served the District for 8 years
  - “Robert has not only demonstrated excellence as Lead Painter, but he has also managed the roofers for the past year while their manager was out on leave. . . .”
  - “Not only creating and overseeing work, he had a vision that we could bring in new large-format inkjet printer/cutter laser equipment that will save the District thousands, if not millions of dollars in the future. . . .”
  - “When COVID started, we were buying the county’s signs for social distancing and play date safety signage for the students, but we no longer need to rely on others . . . .”

# THANK YOU to Our Classified School Employees of the 2020-2021 School Year!





# Quality Schools in Every Neighborhood!



**OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Community Schools, Thriving Students*

1000 Broadway, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94607

[www.ousd.org](http://www.ousd.org)



@OUSDnews