

Ceremonial Presentation Honoring OUSD's Classified School Employees of the Year

Tara Gard, Chief Talent Officer

April 24, 2024



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students

Our Vision

All OUSD students will find joy in their academic experience while graduating with the skills to ensure they are caring, competent, fully-informed, critical thinkers who are prepared for college, career, and community success.

Our Mission

Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) will build a Full Service Community District focused on high academic achievement while serving the whole child, eliminating inequity, and providing each child with excellent teachers, every day.



Ask of the Board

- This item is presented for the purpose of the adoption of Resolution No. 2324-0130 - Recognition - District's 2023-2024 - Classified School Employees of the Year in eight categories:
 - Paraprofessional
 - Clerical & Administrative Services
 - Food & Nutrition Services
 - Custodial and Maintenance Services
 - Security Services
 - Health & Student Services
 - Technical Services
 - Skilled Trades

Outline

- We will recognize and pay special tribute to their tireless efforts and outstanding performance
- We will feature eight 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

Shelline Waldorf has served as a Paraeducator at Skyline High for 11 years



- “One perfect example was when a student’s wheelchair broke down which created a situation where the student wouldn’t be able to get on their bus and be properly strapped in. Shelline stayed after hours and helped to fix the wheelchair, then stayed to ensure the student got home safely. It was completely after hours and not her responsibility, but she just truly cares.”
- “Shelline is tireless; she’s a great asset and caring individual for all students with exceptional needs, always ensuring we have a cohesive family unit for our deaf and hard of hearing program. Skyline has more Special Education programs than any school in Oakland, and she has assisted **all** these programs . . . she has a great positive attitude!”
- “Ms. Shelline literally helped save the Special Class Program during an actual lockdown where shots were fired. . .she kept the students calm, had them use their quiet voices, kept everyone reassured and stayed on the earpiece with me so we could all transfer information to the rest of the team and to families waiting to hear word of what was happening. The substitute said she was *unbelievable* and was so grateful she was there.”

Clerical & Administrative Services

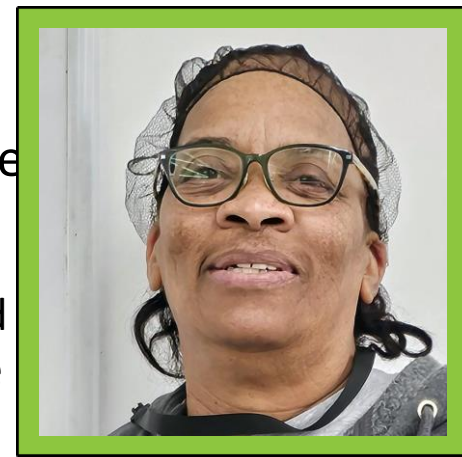
Helena Wu-Quach has served as Attendance Specialist, Bilingual at Westlake Middle School for 33 years



- “Hundreds of families have sent their kids to Westlake when they they had other options, primarily because of her, because of her ability to be an employee from the community in whom they have deep trust. Families always go to her first!”
- “The word bilingual doesn’t approach the coverage she gives to our families. She is currently learning her 12th language and offers tremendous support for the necessary communications between home and school. Whether about student data or more remote District knowledge, she’s right there to translate whenever there’s a need.”
- “It’s a calming, refreshing experience when the day-to-day demands sometimes don’t allow for personal exchanges to take place, but she always takes the time to make sure that we stop, breathe, reflect, and appreciate what we have and how we’re doing. She was one of those employees that helped me become a better principal.”

Food & Nutritional Services

Tammie McHenry has served as a Production Tech at the Central Kitchen and has been with OUSD for 41 years



- “You want employees like Tammie, people who will step up and learn something different for the long haul. She’s been with the District for over forty years, and she has always been a food service worker. Now in the role of Machine Tech, she takes care of multiple machines and production lines. She’s like an engineer of sorts; each one is different, so she is in charge of managing the settings to ensure accuracy.”
- “She’s a very shy person, so something like this award is a stretch for her, but everyone should know she helps anybody who needs it. She shows up every day and works really hard; you call on Tammie, she’s there, always smiling. Since there have been a lot of changes in food services, and students receive a variety of new and different foods, this has required her to grow her skill set, which she has risen to well. She is known to be a great communicator with Nutrition Services staff and truck drivers, ensuring the meals that support the nutrition of OUSD students are delivered, appetizingly and on

Custodial & Maintenance Services

Thomas O'Neill has served as a Gardener in Buildings & Grounds for 33 years



- “B&G commends our dedicated OUSD gardener, Tom, for his exemplary performance upon returning to work following a significant injury. Despite facing inordinate challenges, Tom has shown tremendous resilience and commitment to his role, inspiring his colleagues with a positive attitude and work ethic. We commend him for his hard work and dedication to maintaining our school grounds, and we are grateful to have him as a valuable team member.”
- “Tom has played a vital role in collaborating with community gardening organizations, establishing connections with the OUSD Garden Council and other stakeholders to carry out necessary tasks effectively, and consulting with staff on job responsibilities.”
- “Tom's remarkable resilience motivates us all, demonstrating his exceptional character, unwavering dedication to his work and colleagues, and commitment to keeping safe and well-maintained schools for all OUSD students, staff, and community.”

Security Services

Elisa Escobedo has served as a Noon Supervisor at Melrose Leadership Academy for 18 years



- “Maestra Elisa's interactions with students always make them feel so special and cared for. When my child was struggling with conflicts with a peer, she supported them to resolve the conflicts together, teaching them such important social skills for the future. She helped them communicate with each other, and always communicated with us, the families, to ensure that our students were receiving all the support they needed. With her support they felt heard, safe, and grew as individuals and in their friendship with each other.”
- “She is the definition of a bamboo forest! She is strong and flexible and continues to evolve with the years our school has had to continue to reinvent itself, to reinvent its model. She is so adaptable; she is queen of the chameleons!”
- “They say J Lo, Cher & Madonna continue to reinvent themselves; well Ms. Elisa is right up there! She continues to get better, an avid learner. When Maestra Elisa sees a need, she quickly jumps on the opportunity to fill it. She is always going above and beyond her job

Health & Student Services

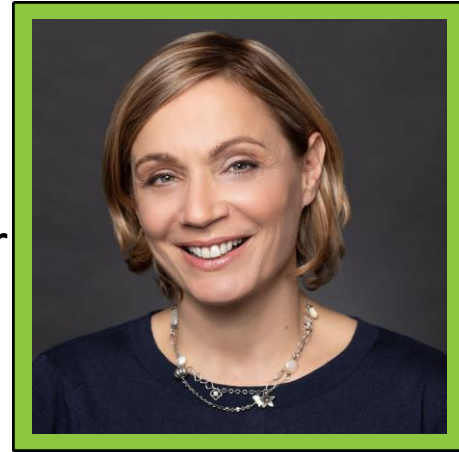
Titilayo Doyeni has served as Instructional Support Specialist at Joaquin Miller Elementary for 9 years



- “Ms. Titi is a gem and true professional. We have been greatly blessed to have her here at Joaquin Miller. Titi is a kid-whisperer. No matter the situation or challenge, Titi has a gift for helping students to regulate and participate in their own learning. She creates and implements systems that support kids while still holding them accountable, all the while making herself available to both staff and students. We could not think of anyone more deserving of this honor.”
- “Titi is the most knowledgeable and competent ISS working with our special education students here at Joaquin Miller. She ensures that they are fully included in the general education classroom and can and do complete their work. Titi modifies assignments in a way that is manageable for our children with IEPs.”
- Other ISSs look up to her and ask for advice, and classroom teachers do the same. We truly value her vast knowledge and insights. Families of students she has supported in the past have expressed hope that she will work with their children again.”

Technical Services

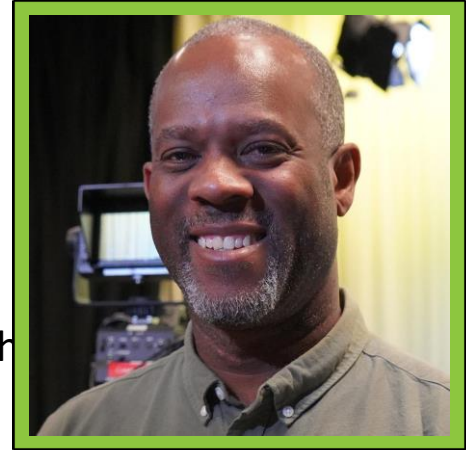
Rinat Fried has served as Research Associate, Early Childhood, with Research, Assessment & Data (RAD) for 12 years



- “We had never met, but she came over to me and my literacy coach during a professional development session, crouched down low with her computer, and said ‘I want to create data walls that help you do the data analysis you need to do with teachers. What do you need?’ This was my first impression of Rinat!”
- “Most recently, I heard a consultant working across districts say, ‘although many districts use SIPPS, not a single one of them have the robust dashboards that OUSD does.’ Other districts cannot analyze student level literacy data with the precision that we can because Rinat works data magic!”
- “Without the data dashboards Rinat has created for i-Ready data and Early Literacy metrics our site leaders and teachers would not be able to monitor progress towards their goals. Rinat is so clear how the analysis of Data and ‘Using Data to Make the Best Decisions’ is key to our strategic plan and supporting site leaders and teachers make shifts and improvements to their

Skilled Trades

Kipchogi Scott has served as Operations Engineer with KDOL/
District Communications for 5 years



- “Kip shows up for students and staff in a big way at KDOL-TV, and Youth Beat, whether it's coming in the early morning to open up for a youth program, working late nights on OUSD board meetings, or taking the time to patiently and diligently help students access the equipment they need, He does it all with a smile on his face and a kind, positive presence. He is truly a wonderful guy and a joy to work with!”
- “Our students often interact with Kip and some of our interns have even assisted him as he works in the studio. Kip is from Oakland; he is someone who the students can relate to. His kind demeanor, hard work and expertise is highly appreciated and the young people who come to our programs see him as a mentor, and they look up to him. They are inspired and curious and this alone makes a huge difference in their lives. Knowing that someone from Oakland is doing this work in Oakland for the Oakland School District is something to appreciate.”
- “Kip works to ensure we are on the air 24/7/365 and that every production, recording, and meeting is ready to go, and as flawlessly as possible. ”

Thank You to Our OUSD Classified School Employees of the 2023-2024 School Year!

For more information, please reach out to
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