

San Joaquin County Office of Education

James A. Mousalimas, County Superintendent of Schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
016-058: NCVSC Awards 2016

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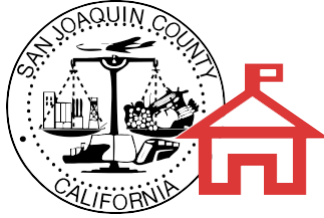
Stockton Unified Educator Named STEM Teacher of the Year Tokay High student also recognized by North Central Valley STEM Center

The North Central Valley STEM Center (NCVSC) named Wilhelmina Henry Elementary School's Rachael Navarrete STEM Teacher of the Year, recognizing the eighth-grade teacher as an innovative educator who engages students in the study of STEM: science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The NCVSC also named a student and STEM advocate of the year.

Navarrete integrates the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) into her class, and she generates excitement for science in the younger students by pairing up eighth- and third-grade students to perform experiments and engineer structures to test scientific theories, according to the Girlie Hale, Navarrete's principal. "Her lessons are engaging, hands-on, and relevant to real-world application," Hale wrote when nominating Navarrete. "The innovative efforts Ms. Navarrete has invested into our students and programs are what make her our nominee for this prestigious award."

The North Central Valley STEM Center is a regional collaborative partnership of area leaders in education, industry, and business. The NCVSC also recognized Tokay High School senior Julie Fukunaga as the STEM Student of the Year. Among a long list of accomplishments and accolades, Fukunaga led the Tokay STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) Team as the founder of the NorCal Science & Technology Festival, which drew 2,500 science-loving students to an "amusement park" of hands-on experiments, activities, and presentations in February.

Each will receive a cash award and custom-made plaque. Awards are sponsored by the NCVSC, Brocchini Farms, Kristine Brocchini, and National Securities Technologies. The NCVSC also named Michael Cardenas of National Security Technologies STEM Advocate of the Year. This is the first year NCVSC issued awards. It held its first awards dinner on May 13 at the residence of Kris Brocchini in Ripon.



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2016 North Central Valley STEM Center Awards Winners

STEM Teacher of the Year:

Rachael Navarrete, Wilhelmina Henry Elementary School, Stockton Unified School District

STEM Student of the Year:

Julie Fukunaga, Tokay High School, Lodi Unified School District

STEM Advocate of the Year:

Michael Cardenas, National Security Technologies

About the North Central Valley Stem Center:

The North Central Valley STEM Center is a regional network of the California STEM Learning Network with a shared mission to help prepare the region's students to become the nation's most STEM-capable graduates by providing STEM education and access for all. It is coordinated through the San Joaquin County Office of Education as a regional collaborative partnership of the California Math and Science Partnership, Cohort 10 Secondary Integration of Modeling in Math and Science (SIMMS) Project. For more information, visit www.sjcoescience.org/north-central-valley-stem-center.html.

About the San Joaquin County Office of Education:

San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) provides educational leadership, resources, and services to support schools throughout the county. With its highly regarded programs, innovative staff and community partnerships, SJCOE ensures that every student in San Joaquin County has the opportunity of a quality education. For more information, visit www.sjcoe.org.