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Randolph E. Ward, Ed.D., County Superintendent of Schools

## **Teaching Profession Honored As Five Are Named 2011 San Diego County Teachers of the Year**

### **Honorees To Represent 26,000 Local Public School Teachers**

Five phenomenal teachers were named 2011 San Diego County Teachers of the Year Saturday at the 20th anniversary production of Cox Presents A Salute to Teachers at sold-out Balboa Theatre.

The new County Teachers of the Year are:

Darin Curtis, a physical education teacher at Tierra del Sol Middle School in the Lakeside Union School District; Ericka Senegar-Mitchell, a biology and advanced place biology and biotechnology teacher at Serra High in the San Diego Unified School District; Eric Frandsen, a math teacher from Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School in the Oceanside Unified School District; Shaylene Watkins, a 4th/5th grade teacher at Monterey Ridge Elementary in the Poway Unified School District; And Stephen Keiley, another 4th/5th grade teacher, who works at the downtown San Diego Monarch School for homeless and at-risk youth.

The five new Teachers of the Year are now candidates for California Teacher of the Year. Their announcement, by County Superintendent of Schools Randy Ward and Cox Communications Vice President Sam Attisha, concluded a wildly emotional and enthusiastic awards presentation, the 20th anniversary production of Cox Presents A Salute to Teachers.

The Salute was televised live by Ch. 4 San Diego. CNN news anchor Kyra Philips, an alum of Helix High, and Ch. 4's Dennis Morgigno were the show's co-hosts.

Before the new County Teachers of the Year were announced, 10 finalists were introduced, one at a time, over the course of the two-hour Salute to Teachers production. The five departing County Teachers of the Year were among the awards presenters.

The 10 finalists included the five eventual winners and: Sofia Sandoval of Southwest High in the Sweetwater Union High School District; Jessica Frichtel of Kearny Construction Technology Academy in San Diego Unified School District; Kristina Campbell of Sweetwater High in the Sweetwater Union High School District; Kasey Galik of the San Dieguito Union High School District; and Aida Jarrett of Hilltop Middle School of the Sweetwater Union High School District.