

Press Release

SOLANA BEACH SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jodee Brentlinger, Superintendent
(858) 794-7104

Solana Beach School District Employees Named ACSA Region 18 Administrators of the Year Awards Recipients for 2021



SOLANA BEACH, CA (February 24, 2021) – The Solana Beach School District (SBSD) proudly announces that the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 18 has named two Solana Beach leaders in its annual awards program. Ms. Jennifer Orr, Director of SBSB’s Child Development Center, is the 2021 Administrator of the Year in the category of Classified Leader (photo: right); and Kristie Towne, Executive Assistant to the



Superintendent/Public Information Officer, is the 2021 Administrator of the Year for Confidential Employee (photo: top left). According to ACSA, these recipients demonstrate exceptional leadership, collaboration, and a commitment to quality education programs and student achievement. Solana Beach’s award winners are now in consideration for recognition by ACSA’s State Awards Committee.

“These two women are incredibly deserving of this recognition under normal circumstances, and even more so now as they have demonstrated such care, expertise, and professionalism in the face of inordinate challenges over the past year due to the pandemic,” said Vicki King, Esq., President of the SBSB Board of Education. “We are all thrilled that ACSA Region 18 has chosen to honor them and submit their names for consideration as part of the statewide awards program.”

Superintendent Jodee Brentlinger proudly announced the awards at a recent leadership meeting and noted, “Both Jennifer Orr and Kristie Towne have played key roles in our school district’s ability to help essential workers and return children to their campuses, whether preparing classrooms for preschoolers at the Child Development Center or facilitating districtwide reopening planning.”

Ms. Orr joined SBSB in September 2015 as Director of its Child Development Center (CDC) after serving as Executive Director of Base Child Care and Prairie Child Care in Chicago, Illinois, for nearly a decade. In her role today, she is responsible for overseeing high-quality early learning and before/after school programs. Ms. Orr has been instrumental in linking the District’s STREAM (Science, Technology,

-more-

Research, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) resources with teachers and classrooms in the CDC. In fact, CDC staff received special recognition for its innovative use of STREAM/STEM lessons from the California State University at San Marcos last year. Regarding professional development, particularly during the pandemic, Ms. Orr seeks opportunities for virtual training through the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The unique circumstances of the past year have required Ms. Orr and her team, in collaboration with other district departments, to create safe learning environments in order to keep sites open and students in classrooms, staff and families comfortable, and essential workers with a safe place for their own children to attend school. Incorporating the SBSD's 15 above and beyond safety mitigation measures, Ms. Orr has overseen the implementation of those measures and restructured physical sites and practices, while encouraging everyone to do their part in practicing physical distancing, wearing masks, avoiding crowds, and following state and local health guidelines.

Ms. Towne came to SBSD from the Poway Unified School District in 2009. With over 20 years in education, she serves the seven-school elementary district as Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Public Information Officer. In her interactions with staff, families, and the community, Ms. Towne believes there is always a solution and path to success. She is often an individual's first interaction with the District, so her positivity, knowledge, and professional manner set the tone for promoting successful relationships and maintaining a focus on what is best for children. Ms. Towne nurtures a team environment by sharing her knowledge on software implementation and customer service with a commitment to continual professional and procedural improvement. She is passionate about education and enthusiastically advocates for children who face special circumstances. She regularly champions for the rights and processes that best serve our community's most vulnerable students. Her leadership is exhibited through mentoring department secretaries, and she is an authority on helping others interpret and understand district policies, requirements, and establishing procedures to improve district efficiency and effectiveness, all of which allow more time to be spent benefitting student achievement and potential. Ms. Towne regularly reinforces retaining our focus on what is best for students.

The Solana Beach School District is located at 309 North Rios Avenue in Solana Beach, California.

#

