

Press Release

SOLANA BEACH SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

UC San Diego Health Named 2021 'Partner in Educational Excellence' by Association Of California School Administrators Region 18 for COVID-19 Testing Program



SOLANA BEACH, CA (March 8, 2021) – The [Association of California School Administrators](#) Region 18 has awarded [UC San Diego Health](#) the 2021 *Partner in Educational Excellence Award* for exemplary school-community partnership programs that promote effective educational performance, enhanced student achievement and strong community involvement in educational quality. Superintendents from the Solana Beach, Del Mar Union, Rancho Santa Fe, and San Dieguito Union school districts joined together to nominate the academic medical center for the award in honor of the groundbreaking partnerships it helped create in San Diego County during the pandemic. *(Photo: UC San Diego Health campus)*

These collaborations have resulted in symptomatic and surveillance COVID-19 testing for students and school employees, helping keep students on their campuses and in classrooms during the 2020-21 school year. “We are beyond grateful for our partnership with UC San Diego Health and its guidance and support,” said Jodee Brentlinger, Superintendent of the Solana Beach School District (SBSD). “Regular testing has been a key health and safety mitigation measure and contributor to keeping our schools open since September.”

“We are so fortunate to have this opportunity to partner with UC San Diego Health for the benefit of our students and staff,” said Vicki King, President of the SBSBD Board of Education.

UC San Diego Health and other award recipients will be recognized at the 19th Annual "Honoring Our Own" Awards Virtual Event, co-sponsored by ACSA Region 18 and the San Diego County School Boards Association to be held on Saturday, May 1, 2021, at 6:00 p.m on YouTube. UC San Diego Health is now being considered for recognition by ACSA's State Awards Committee.

“UC San Diego Health has been proud to work with our school districts and county partners to support COVID-19 testing and vaccination efforts,” said Patty Maysent, CEO, UC San Diego Health. “As a health system, we are deeply committed to keeping our communities healthy, and we welcomed the opportunity to help our schools safely reopen and resume in-person education.”

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“It is with great pride that I acknowledge the outstanding service and partnership of UC San Diego and UC San Diego Health in their assistance to K-12 schools during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Debra H. Schade, Ph.D., Vice President of the SBSBD Board of Education. “Their expertise and willingness to assist San Diego County schools with COVID testing, wastewater sampling programs, and science-based guidance cannot be understated. We are so proud and thankful for their work and community partnership. They truly deserve this recognition.”

The nominating team of school districts is partnering with UC San Diego Health in various ways, allowing for flexibility in testing services and guidance. “Our work with University of California San Diego Health was critical in making decisions that led to the opening of in-person, full-time school for our students,” said Holly McClurg, Ph.D., Superintendent of the Del Mar Union School District. “Our ability to open, and remain open, have been due largely to our partnership with UCSDH, positively impacting the lives of thousands of students and families in our district!”

Donna Tripi, Superintendent of the Rancho Santa Fe School District said, “Our partnership with UC San Diego Health from the summer of 2020 allowed us to open our schools in-person from the start of the school year. They provided highly reliable PCR COVID testing for staff and students at a reduced cost to the District, allowing us to put in place an important mitigation strategy for opening and safely remaining open. Our students, families, and staff are grateful to them for their work.”

UC San Diego Health is one of five academic medical centers within the 10-campus University of California system. Collectively known as UC Health, these medical centers comprise the fourth largest health care delivery system in California and train nearly 50 percent of the state’s medical students and medical residents. As part of a public trust organization, UC Health serves as a safety net for individuals in need. To fulfill its mission, UC San Diego Health currently maintains a regional strategy, integrating research, teaching and clinical care at locations in Hillcrest and La Jolla. [More information can be found on the UC Health website.](#)

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

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