

news galleryweek

August 7, 2024

Employees recognized for years of service

Yesterday, employees celebrated service milestones at the third annual TCOE Convocation. Human Resources honored 158 staff members who marked their 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of service to the organization and the children of Tulare County.

“The tradition of celebrating employees at Convocation is becoming a much-anticipated experience,” said Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire. “Everyone joins in honoring our teachers, administrators, and support staff who this year dedicated over 2,500 years to our school districts, staff, and students.”

Over 1,500 employees attended the convocation and celebrated their colleagues who reached the following service milestones. The two employees who reached their 35- and 40-year milestones were introduced to the audience by the superintendent who had the following to say:

40 years

Linda Torres

Linda Torres has worked as a teacher assistant for TCOE Early Childhood Education Program since she was 18 years old!

In the 40 years that she has worked in the program, Linda has been faithfully serving the children and families of the Richgrove Child Development Center.

Linda is described by her coworkers as a hardworking team player who is always ready to step in to help out. She is very



organized, which is a skill that the lead teacher in her classroom appreciates. Linda takes pride in the classroom environment and ensures that it is neat, clean, and ready for the children's use.

Linda enjoys spending time with the children, and encourages them to play and to try different learning activities. She will even allow them to arrange her hair while they play beauty shop in the house area. Linda takes pride in helping her students be ready for TK or kindergarten, and encourages them to learn their ABCs and to print their name. She feels that it is especially important to prepare the children to be successful in TK, kindergarten, and beyond.

Linda is married and has two sons and seven grandchildren that she loves to spend time with. Playing in the pool and barbecuing hamburgers are favorite activities, and Linda enjoys sharing them with her family. Linda also takes care of her mother who is very precious to her.

Thank you, Linda, for your many years of dedicated service to the Richgrove community!

35 years

Sally Coronado

Sally Coronado is being honored for 35 years of service to the children and families of our Bright Start Parent-Infant Program. Sally began her career as an Early Start instructional assistant in Porterville when the Bright Start program had only five staff members.

As the program expanded and Bright Start moved to different locations, Sally grew to become the epitome of a "parent-coach." Her colleagues describe her as kind, compassionate, patient, and knowledgeable, with the unique ability to focus on the needs of the entire family. The teachers who work closest with Sally consider her a true mentor.

One teacher conveyed that after a home visit, Sally told her, "You may not see it now, but you're having a big impact on that child's future."

Sally stated that the best thing about working at Bright Start is the time she gets to spend working with families. She still enjoys what she does because she knows that her work continues to make a difference. She said, "I have 35 years of stories and memories," and to remember that "we don't just touch the lives of the families that we serve...they also touch ours." Congratulations, Sally!

30 Years



Roger Beavers, Maintenance & Operations
Betty Castillo, Early Childhood Education Program
Rachel Castillo, Early Childhood Education Program
Bynovu Cha, SEE & Co.
Rita Jahnke, Early Childhood Education Program
Mark Martinez, External Business Services
Rosa Pike, Early Childhood Education Program

25 Years



Carol Angulo, Early Childhood Education Program
Leticia Aranzazu, Early Childhood Education Program
Leslie Bell, AcCEL Program
Susana Blackwell, Early Childhood Education Program, Connections For Quality Care
Mang Chang, See & Co.
Xiong Chang, Early Childhood Education Program

Lisa Conrad, AcCEL Program
Erlinda Contreras, Early Childhood Education Program
Cathleen Crookshanks, Bright Start Program
Sandra Dutch, School Health Programs
Randy Elzig, Internal Business Services
Leticia Fernandes Gil, AcCEL Program
Sylvia Gomez, Early Childhood Education Program
Elizabeth Green, AcCEL Program
Heather Kellerhals, Early Childhood Education Program, Connections For Quality Care
Tammy Lockridge, AcCEL Program
Norma Navarro, Early Childhood Education Program
Sheila Oaks, AcCEL Program
Christopher Ortega, AcCEL Program
Elvira Pedregon, AcCEL Program
Elvia Ramos, AcCEL Program
Ronald Rea, Early Childhood Education Program
Benny Rivera, See & Co.
Maria Elena Rodriguez, Early Childhood Education Program
Helen Salinas, Early Childhood Education Program
Maria Sanchez, AcCEL Program
Marlayna Slater, AcCEL Program
Daniel Trevino, AcCEL Program
Sonia Villarreal, Early Childhood Education Program

20 Years



Maria Aguayo de Hernandez, Early Childhood Education Program
Eva Arias, Early Childhood Education Program
John Cemo, AcCEL Program
Rosalba Cisneros, Early Childhood Education Program
Maria Cruz, Early Childhood Education Program
Maria Gomez-Guerra, AcCEL Program

Robert Herman, Communications
Erika Marquez, AcCEL Program
Bertha Martinez, Early Childhood Education Program
Raquel Mendoza, Early Childhood Education Program
Karen Muro, La Sierra Charter School
Jacob Rivas, Information Systems
Heather Roberson, Bright Start Program
Rachel Rodriguez, AcCEL Program
Frank Velasquez, Court/Community Schools
Holly Vincent, Bright Start Program

15 Years



Jaysi Acebo, Intervention Resource Classrooms
Andrew Adams, Bright Future Program
Michelle Branco, Bright Start Program
Maria Cabello, Early Childhood Education Program
Maria Janeth Ceballos Andrade, AcCEL Program
Mireslavia Colunga, AcCEL Program
Myrna Cortez, Special Services
Jordan Davis, Information Systems
Teresa Fitton, Mild/Moderate Programs
Guadalupe Gonzalez, AcCEL Program
Bethany Guerra, Bright Start Program
Sheila Hernandez, Early Childhood Education Program
Breanna Linebarger, Internal Business Services
Evelin Lopez, Educational Resource Services
Maria Loya, External Business Services
Yareli Magana de Ramirez, CHOICES Programs
Estela Martinez, AcCEL Program
Molly Martino, Court/Community Schools
Helen Milliorn-Feller, University Preparatory High School
Maria E. Navarro, Early Childhood Education Program
Maria Ortiz de Medina, Early Childhood Education Program
Tiffany Owens-Stark, Intervention Resource Classrooms

Conan Palmer, Planetarium & Science Center
Virginia Parma de Perez, Early Childhood Education Program
Cynthia Ramirez, AcCEL Program
Paul Ramos, AcCEL Program
Tamara Reed, AcCEL Program
Vanessa Rodriguez, AcCEL Program
Noelia Salinas, Early Childhood Education Program
Mary Santoyo, Early Childhood Education Program
Rosa Sepulveda, AcCEL Program
Melvie Tamayo, Internal Business Services
Tamara Taylor, Bright Start Program
Sara Torabi, Educational Resource Services
Juan Torres, Internal Business Services
Carlie Vallejos, Bright Start Program
Michelle Vega-Martinez, AcCEL Program

10 Years



Leticia Abundis, Early Childhood Education Program
Baleria Aguirre, Migrant Education Program
Rodolfo Aguirre Silva, Maintenance & Operations
Enoch Aguirre Silva, University Preparatory High School
Araceli Alcala, University Preparatory High School
Jessica Alvarado, Intervention Resource Classrooms
Joseph Andrade, Court/Community Schools
Rebecca Andrews, School Health Programs
Tiffany Angulo, AcCEL Program
Jared Atkinson, Information Systems
Nalee Bala, AcCEL Program
Veana Barajas, AcCEL Program
Janie Cain, Speech & Language Services
Gabriela Carranza, Bright Start Program
Lorena Castillo, Early Childhood Education Program
Christina Chavez, SELPA Compliance
Rosa Chavez, Bright Start Program
Tamara Cochran, School Health Programs
Joshua Curtiss, University Preparatory High School

Sarah Esajian, Visually Impaired Services
Alejandro Espino-Perez, Migrant Education Program
Shane Farmer, Intervention Resource Classrooms
Salina Flemate, AcCEL Program
Celeste Franco, Migrant Education Program
Maria Gallegos, AcCEL Program
Guadalupe Gonzalez, Early Childhood Education Program
Mario Guerrero, AcCEL Program
Lori Hansen, Court/Community Schools
Erica Hernandez, Early Childhood Education Program
Muriel Hernandez, Early Childhood Education Program
Rosie Hernandez, Behavioral Health Services
Sonja Jackson, Early Childhood Education Program
Jatinder Kaur, Early Childhood Education Program
Amanda Lane, AcCEL Program
Mary Leal, Deaf/Hard Of Hearing Program
Ivette Lopez, Educational Resource Services
Lisa Marquis, Mild/Moderate Programs
Sara Marvin, Human Resources
Sarah Mckinsey, Mild/Moderate Programs
Jacqueline Mellow, Mild/Moderate Programs
Rebecca Nace, Behavioral Health Services
Mindy Niksa, Early Childhood Education Program
Rio Oga-Ob Perez, AcCEL Program
Manuel Olvera, Early Childhood Education Program
Jacqueline Orosco, AcCEL Program
Jose Palafox, Behavioral Health Services
Melissa Passmore, AcCEL Program
Maribel Platas de Andrade, Early Childhood Education Program
Gabriela Porter, SCICON
Stephanie Ramirez Verners, Educational Resource Services
Graciela Reynoso, Early Childhood Education Program
Ma Guadalupe Rodriguez de Mora, Early Childhood Education Program
Becky Salazar, AcCEL Program
Katrina Smith, AcCEL Program
Tasha Smith, AcCEL Program
Kermit Stevens, SCICON
Fida Taha, Behavioral Health Services
Ashley Torres, AcCEL Program
Carly Valdez, AcCEL Program
Adriana Vanni, AcCEL Program
Marie Vasquez, Behavioral Health Services
Ramona Villarreal-Padilla, Behavioral Health Services
John Vining, Behavioral Health Services
Shaitah Xiong, Early Childhood Education Program

Jennifer Zaino, AcCEL Program
Amanda Ziessler, AcCEL Program
Aubrey Zigler, Human Resources

Note: Not all employees honored are pictured.

Around the County

Quincy Hall, former College of the Sequoias' star, wins gold at Olympics



Quincy Hall, a former College of the Sequoias (COS) star, won a gold medal in the men's 400-meter race at the Olympics Wednesday afternoon in Paris, France. He won in a time of 43.40 seconds.

Hall trailed early in the race but finished strong on the straightaway to claim America's first gold in the 400 since LaShawn Merritt won at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

According to COS, "Hall's Olympic journey began at College of the Sequoias, where he first showcased his potential, earning accolades and setting records in the 400m, 400m hurdles, and 4 x 400m relay. Quincy Hall continued to excel when he transferred to

(the) University of South Carolina. His progression continued at South Carolina, culminating in multiple NCAA first-team All-American honors, NCAA Champion and now, an Olympic gold medal.”

Hall is coached by Curtis Allen, who has coached at both COS and the University of California, Los Angeles.

For more on Hall, visit cosgiants.com or www.visaliatimesdelta.com.

Photo above:

Quincy Hall, former COS Track standout, after winning gold in the men's 400-meter final at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024. / AP Photo

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