

Information about the Hoffmann Awards

Begun in 1984, the awards were initiated by the Santa Clara County School Boards Association to provide recognition to successful school programs that have a significant impact on student success in our county.

Named for the former County Superintendent (1967-84), these awards exemplify Dr. Hoffmann's strong belief in educational leadership as the key factor in educational reform.

Each fall, school districts are invited to identify programs they consider worthy of commendations and consistent with a free, public education for all students. Applications are submitted in one of the following ten (10) categories, with one category marked as primary (most impact in this arena), and an additional category marked for secondary consideration (lesser impact here). A program may be multi-district, district-wide, one school, or only one classroom.

1. Curriculum and Instruction

Programs that significantly enhance the student learning experience in a variety of curricular areas.

2. Targeted Student Populations

Programs that are specifically designed to address the educational needs of targeted student populations.

3. Technology

Programs that demonstrate the integration of effective uses of technology in teaching and learning.

4. Professional Development

Professional development programs for staff: teachers, administrators, certificated and/or classified personnel. Efforts may include support for training, continuing education, evaluation, recruitment, retention, and/or opportunities for collaboration and shared decision-making.

5. Family Involvement

Programs that encourage or facilitate family involvement in their child's education.

6. Community Connection

Collaborations that support the school's objectives for their students' educational experience, including but not limited to core academics.

7. Accountability and Assessment

Programs to assess student achievement or program effectiveness, such that instruction is improved or accountability enhanced.

8. Student Leadership

Programs that promote and support leadership roles for students within their school.

9. Student Wellness

Programs for students and/or families that support student learning by addressing critical physical and mental health issues

10. Student Support Services

Programs within a school that support the core educational objectives of the school, but do not directly involve curriculum and instruction.

Submitted programs are reviewed by a committee composed of board members and educators. The committee's expectations are rigorous and applicants are expected to show measurable outcomes of the programs' effectiveness on student success. The programs receiving the highest scores are honored with the Glenn W. Hoffmann Exemplary Program Award.

The Santa Clara County School Boards Association awards an additional honor to one program each year. The program receiving the highest marks out of the entire field of applicants will receive the Kristi Porter Outstanding Program Award.

Kristi Porter served on the Oak Grove School District Board for ten years, was also very active with the SCCSBA, serving as President 2002-03, and other community ventures. It was Kristi's vision and energy, as Hoffmann Chair, that revitalized the Glenn W. Hoffmann Awards to honor our county's outstanding programs. On April 24, 2006, Kristi and her son, Robert, were tragically killed in an automobile accident while vacationing in Hungary. Kristi is greatly missed by her colleagues, family, and friends. The SCCSBA honors her memory by dedicating this annual award to Kristi Porter.