SAN BERNARDINO CITY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
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SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNOUNCES ITS 2012 GOLDEN APPLE AWARD WINNERS

The eighteenth annual Golden Apple Awards were presented Thursday, March 29 at the California State University, San Bernardino. The award honored 12 educators from San Bernardino City Unified School District (SBCUSD), San Bernardino Valley College, and California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB).

The 2012 winners from San Bernardino City Unified School District are **Mark McKenzie**, Spanish-language translator/interpreter, **Communications/Community Relations Department**; **Heather Lozano**, special education teacher, **Cajon High School**; **John Peukert**, assistant superintendent, **Facilities/Operations Division**; and **Denise Martinez**, principal, **Marshall Elementary School**.

McKenzie translates important documents into Spanish and interprets for Spanish-speaking parents and residents, allowing Spanish-speakers to participate more fully in their child's education and providing educational information to this large section of our local community. McKenzie is also a Lutheran pastor, a father, and a husband. McKenzie currently lives with his wife, Leticia, in San Bernardino.

Lozano has dedicated her life to help students with special needs reach their full academic and social potential. In addition to her classroom teaching duties, Lozano is the advisor of the Best Buddies program at Cajon High. The club pairs students with disabilities with general education students to help all students better understand each other and form lasting friendships. Heather lives with her husband, television reporter Rick Lozano, in Alta Loma.

Peukert oversees the Student Transportation, Nutrition Services, Facilities, and Maintenance & Operations departments, which provide educational support services including the free and reduced-lunch program, school construction and modernization, and custodial and maintenance services. By keeping these services running smoothly, Peukert allows teachers and students to focus on teaching and learning. Peukert lives in Rialto with his wife, Anita.

Martinez is a fifth-generation educator with a 23-year career in education. She joined the District in 1992 as a teacher at **Emmerton Elementary School**. By 2010, she was ready to take on the challenge of transforming Marshall Elementary School as its new principal. Her success is evident in the 51-point increase in Marshall's Academic Performance Index (API) score. Martinez lives with her husband, Johnny, and their children in San Bernardino.

The honorees from San Bernardino Valley College are Dr. Victoria Anemelu, assistant professor of mathematics; Todd Heibel, associate professor of geography, geology, oceanography, and geographic information systems (GIS); Lisa Hepburn Stroud, assistant bookstore manager; and Gloria Kracher, custodian.

The California State University, San Bernardino winners are Robert Garcia, information technology consultant; Deidre Kobziff, administrative analyst/specialist, Facilities Services Department; Amanda Wilcox-Herzog, associate professor of psychology, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences; and Todd Jennings, professor, Educational Psychology Department.

The City of San Bernardino's Education RoundTable, a consortium of San Bernardino educational leaders, presents the Golden Apple Awards annually to dedicated, caring education employees, as nominated by their co-workers. Education RoundTable members include San Bernardino Mayor Patrick J. Morris, SBCUSD Interim Superintendent **Yolanda Ortega**, CSUSB President Dr. Albert K. Karnig, San Bernardino Valley College Interim President Dr. Larry Buckley, San Bernardino Community College District Chancellor Bruce Baron, and San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gary Thomas.

For more information about the San Bernardino City Unified School District Golden Apple Award winners, contact **Linda Bardere**, San Bernardino City Unified School District's Communications/Community Relations Department director, at (909) 381-1463.

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