



North Island Credit Union and San Diego Unified School District Debut 2023 “Rookie of the Year” Awards for Teachers & School Employees

*Inaugural Year of Program Celebrates Five Outstanding Members of San Diego
School Communities as They Begin Their Career*

[Video from the event](#)

[Photos from the event](#)

San Diego, CA – May 3, 2023 – North Island Credit Union and the San Diego Unified School District have honored five first-year teachers and school employees through the first-ever Rookie of the Year Award program. North Island Credit Union created the program with San Diego Unified to recognize exceptional new district teachers and school employees within the greater San Diego community.

North Island Credit Union President/CEO Steve O’Connell said, “We are excited to partner with SDUSD to create this new program to acknowledge those who truly excelled in bringing learning to life and supporting our students as they begin their career. We have a long history of supporting our education community, and launching this program is another way we are working to help our educators and school employees succeed. We applaud the commitment and passion of these award recipients and thank them for their dedication to their students and schools. We look forward to continuing this program with SDUSD for many years to come.”

The Rookie of the Year winners were recognized during a ceremony at Petco Park on May 2 which included the recipients and their guests, as well as North Island Credit Union and San Diego Unified officials.

“Year after year, we are proud to honor and recognize the hard work and dedication of individuals who work for San Diego Unified. Our students and communities are fortunate to have the privilege of learning from and being cared for by employees who commit years of their lives to the success of our district,” Superintendent Dr. Lamont Jackson said. “This year, we are proud to celebrate special individuals who, in their short time with the district, have made a long-lasting impression in the lives of those they serve. Thanks to the support from North Island Credit Union, we’ve increased our efforts to ensure all employees feel appreciated and loved. I am honored and proud to induct the Rookie of the Year program into our annual Employee Recognition celebration series.”

The 2023 Rookies of the Year are

2023 Winner	Role	School
Miski Jama	Teacher	Marshall Elementary School
Keith Keiper	Principal	Torrey Pines Elementary School
Benjamin Miner	Paraeducator Independence Facilitator	Transition Resources for Adult Community Education
Kelly Ness-Walker	Rehabilitation Specialist	Mental Health Resource Center
Anne Stuart	Teacher	Carver Elementary School



North Island Credit Union and San Diego Unified School District celebrate 2023 “Rookie of the Year” Award winners at Petco Park on May 2, 2023. In its inaugural year, North Island Credit Union created the Rookie of the Year program with San Diego Unified to recognize first year teachers and school employees within the greater San Diego community.

The winning teachers and school employees were selected based on a number of factors, including exemplifying effectiveness in service, contributing to a positive work climate, displaying dedication and passion through their work ethic, and showing high levels of professionalism as well as compassion for their colleagues and their community.

[Video from the event](#)

[Photos from the event](#)

Media Contacts

Jeanne Ouellette, 818.970.0678, jeanne@winlycommunications.com

Isabella McNeil, San Diego Unified School District, 619.341.234, imcneil@sandi.net

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About North Island Credit Union, a division of California Credit Union

California Credit Union is a federally insured, state chartered credit union founded in 1933 that serves public or private school employees, community members and businesses across California. With more than 170,000 members and assets of over \$4.5 billion, California Credit Union has 24 branches throughout Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties. The credit union operates in San Diego County as North Island Credit Union, a division of California Credit Union. California Credit Union offers a full suite of consumer, business and investment products and services, including comprehensive consumer checking and loan options, personalized financial planning, business banking, and leading-edge online and mobile banking. Please visit northisland.ccu.com for more information or follow the credit union on Instagram® or Facebook® @northislandcu.