



North Island Credit Union Foundation and San Diego Unified School District Honor 2024 “Rookie of the Year” Teachers & School Employees at PETCO Park

Program Celebrates Five Outstanding Members of San Diego School Communities as They Begin Their Career in Education

San Diego, CA –April 11, 2024 – North Island Credit Union Foundation and the San Diego Unified School District recently honored five first-year teachers and school employees through the 2nd annual Rookie of the Year Award program. North Island Credit Union Foundation 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 Foundation President Marvel Ford said, “Supporting educators is one of the Foundation’s pillars of community empowerment, and we are excited to once again partner with San Diego Unified to recognize first-year educators for a wonderful start to their career. We applaud the commitment and passion of these new educators and thank them for their dedication to their students and schools.”

The Rookie of the Year winners were recognized during a ceremony at Petco Park on April 10, which included the recipients and their guests, as well as North Island Credit Union Foundation and San Diego Unified officials.

Superintendent Dr. Lamont Jackson said, “It’s a profound honor to celebrate, for the second consecutive year, the remarkable achievements of our first-year employees. As a district, our unwavering commitment lies in fostering the growth and success not only of our students but also of our dedicated staff. We are deeply grateful and fortunate to have the finest talents in San Diego County amongst us. To our rookies, your extraordinary efforts have not gone unnoticed; you embody the spirit of excellence that inspires both new recruits and seasoned professionals alike. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to you all. Furthermore, we are immensely grateful for the support of North Island Credit Union, whose partnership continues to uplift our entire educational community. Together, we stand as champions of local educators, paving the way for a brighter future.”

The 2024 Rookies of the Year are:

2024 Winner	Role	School
Cintha Gonzalez	Paraeducator Independence Facilitator (PIF)	Trace School
Lindsay Grant	Counselor	Wangenheim Middle School
Gloria "Maria" Hernandez	Community Assistant II	Mental Health Resource Center
Yuh Liew	Associate Principal	Canyon Hills High School
Daina Weber	Associate Principal	Clairemont High School

Event Photos and Video:

North Island Credit Union Foundation and San Diego Unified School District celebrate 2024 "Rookie of the Year" Award winners at Petco Park on April 10, 2024. Now in its second year, North Island Credit Union Foundation 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.

[PHOTOS](#)

[VIDEO/BROLL/SOT](#)

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.

Media Contacts

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About North Island Credit Union Foundation

North Island Credit Union Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that serves as the philanthropic arm of North Island Credit Union, a division of California Credit Union operating in San Diego and Riverside Counties. California Credit Union is a state chartered full-service credit union with assets of nearly \$5 billion, approximately 200,000 members and 25 retail branches. North Island Credit Union Foundation works to strengthen the financial well-being of our communities by providing targeted resources to non-profit partners effecting meaningful change across San Diego and Riverside counties. California Credit Union funds all administrative costs of the Foundation,

enabling it to return 100% of donations back into community programs. Please visit ccu.com/foundation to learn more or make a tax-deductible donation, or follow the Foundation on Instagram® @northislandcufoundation.

About San Diego Unified: With nearly 100,000 students enrolled in Universal Transitional Kindergarten through high school, more than 13,000 employees, and 226 educational facilities, San Diego Unified is California's second-largest school district. San Diego Unified serves a diverse student population representing more than 163 countries, and 60 languages and dialects. Learn more at sandiegounified.org