



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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PUSD Teacher Finalist for National Teacher of the Year

Megan Gross, San Diego County and California State Teacher of the Year, has just been announced as one of only four finalists for 2017 National Teacher of the Year. Megan is a special education teacher at Del Norte High School in the Poway Unified School District.

Megan has taught and facilitated inclusive education for students with disabilities at both the elementary and secondary level for nine years. As an educator, Megan has advocated and supported students' transitions from segregated Special Day Classes, to an instructional day including general education academic and elective classes. In addition, she facilitates social inclusion and extracurricular activities such as the Del Norte High School Best Buddies Club. "Best Buddies has given my students confidence, a valued role on campus and friendships," says Megan. "It has also provided them an opportunity to expand their world into a role of leadership and self-advocacy."

The National Teacher of the Year program, run by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), and presented by Voya Financial, Inc., identifies exceptional teachers nationwide, celebrates their effective work in and outside of the classroom, amplifies their voices and empowers them to take part in policy discussions at the state and national levels.

Every year, exemplary teachers from each state are selected as State Teachers of the Year. From that group, a national selection committee representing 18 renowned education and community organizations, selects four finalists for National Teacher of the Year. One of these finalists will be named the 2017 National Teacher of the Year (NTOY) later this spring, and will spend the next year traveling the country to represent educators and advocate on behalf of teachers and students.

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