EUHSD Director of Pupil Services, Richard Watkins, Selected as ACSA Student Services Administrator of the Year

Richard Watkins has served Escondido Union High School District since 1990. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Watkins has ensured students are provided with a high quality, engaging learning environment in which they are encouraged, inspired, and supported in their pursuit of college, career, and life readiness. His relational approach, coupled with a collaborative leadership style, which has led to a culture of innovation and equity for all students, truly preparing them for their future success makes him an outstanding choice for the award of Student Services Administrator of the Year from the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), Region 18 for San Diego and Imperial counties.

EUHSD Superintendent Dr. Anne Staffieri wrote the following description of Mr. Watkins in her letter of nomination:

“A strong focus on equity is a highlight of Mr. Watkins’ leadership for students. He was instrumental in leading the design and implementation of alternatives to suspension and expulsion. He and his team provide evidence-based intervention programs that redirect student behaviors and result in high levels of academic success and extremely low levels of repeated behaviors.”

When a serious disciplinary incident arises, he takes the time to meet with families of all students involved, seeking out the best placement and support for each student. The families are thankful for the individual support and guidance through the situation and see the Pupil Services department and Mr. Watkins in particular as an ally and resource on the side of the student.

“Increased services to students as a result of this work have included additional social worker interns at all campuses, weekly social-emotional lessons for students during distance learning, teams conducting home visits to reconnect students to school, and shifting to telehealth services and virtual student coaching by student services personnel. Mr. Watkins is committed to ensuring that all students are supported from the moment they enroll in our district to the moment they have a personalized transition to their future, university, career, and pathway of their choice.”

Mr. Watkins is known and respected across the Escondido community, and his leadership has resulted in increased partnerships with our community. Please join us in congratulating Rich Watkins for his hard work and dedication to all students, EUHSD, and the community of Escondido.

Mr. Watkins will be formally recognized at the ACSA Honoring Our Own Awards Event on May 1, 2021.

For more information please contact Dr. Anne L. Staffieri, Ed. D., Superintendent, at: 760.291.3201 or astaffieri@euhsd.org.
Left to right: Dr. Olga West, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Charan Kirpalani, Director of Human Resources; Kim Bodie, District Social Worker; Nick Brizeno, Director of Purchasing; Gabriel Avila, Payroll Technician; Dr. April Moore, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services; Dr. Carlos Saucedo, Director of Special Education; Richard Watkins, Director of Pupil Services; Abi Leaf, Math Content Area Specialist; Damon Blackman, Director of Educational Technology; Dr. Anne Staffieri, Superintendent; Sandra Mendoza, Data Technician; Alfredo Amador, Director of Data Management; Amanda Phillips, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services.