



For Immediate Release:

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Photos of Los Medanos Elementary School students can be downloaded from this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6c717p5t52z28aa/AADHE7IYUhDP7dSr0uosl8j8a?dl=0>

Los Medanos Elementary School Ranks Among Top-Performing Bay Area Public Schools for Underserved Students

Pittsburg, CA...Tuesday, October 4, 2016 –Innovate Public Schools of San Jose, California has published their 2016 list of the Top Bay Area Public Schools for Underserved Students. According to this new report, Pittsburg Unified School District's Los Medanos Elementary School is being acknowledged for performing above state standards and is ranked among the top fifteen performing schools in the Bay Area for low-income Latino students, in the subject of math. This is the second consecutive year Los Medanos has made the list and the Principal, Joanne Curtis, attributes her school's success to a concerted effort. "I believe the culture of Los Medanos Elementary School has a legacy of holding high expectations for all students and the belief that every student can achieve," said Curtis. "Our school focuses on academic achievement by inviting our community to be a part of the learning experience." Collaboration is also key at the school. Teachers use data to reflect on personal practices and strategies, while engaging in professional dialog with colleagues to help guide and improve instruction.

"Here at Los Medanos, we celebrate our students' success with a student of the month program, perfect attendance awards, literacy awards, honor students utilizing life skills, and we recognize academic achievements, said Curtis" Besides just focusing on grades and achievements, the school takes an approach of supporting children inside and outside the classroom. In addition to a traditional school day, Los Medanos promotes

extra-curricular activities and interventions to support students not only academically, but also socially and emotionally. Students have an opportunity to attend after-school tutoring sessions, participate in multicultural activities, interact in student leadership functions, and parents are invited to engage in workshops to help support their children.

Pittsburg Unified School District is honored to receive high marks on Innovate Public Schools' list and is very "Pittsburg Proud" of Los Medanos Elementary School's achievement. "We are proud of the continued commitment to excellence at Los Medanos Elementary School and thank Innovate Public Schools for identifying the school as one of the top performing schools in the Bay Area," said Dr. Janet Schulze, Superintendent of Pittsburg Unified School District. "This recognition, along with our increased graduation rates, our increases in UC/CSU eligibility and our recognition from the College Board Gaston Caperton Honor Roll, are all examples of the talent of our students and staff. They are also examples of the power of public education to truly serve its purpose in educating all scholars for success."

Superintendent Schulze strives to spread the message of, "Every Scholar, Every Day. They Deserve Nothing Less Than Our Best." It is a motto she mentions at every meeting and a mantra that is connected to her vision for Pittsburg Unified School District. For the 2016/2017 School Year, she is empowering her staff to work on several priority areas such as: Engaging and Rigorous Teaching and Learning, Equity, Access, and Success, Student and Family Assets, Recruit, Retain and Support Staff, and Facilities to Support Student Learning. Her vision and strategies are in place to support Pittsburg scholars while simultaneously preparing them for their future; giving them the tools they need to take a successful path in school and after graduation.

For more information about Innovate Public Schools and the Top Bay Area Public Schools for Underserved Students, go to: <http://innovateschools.org/press-releases/new-report-top-bay-area-public-schools-for-underserved-children/>

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About Pittsburg Unified School District

Awarded the College Board's Gaston Caperton Opportunity Honor Roll award in 2016 for expanding access to college, Pittsburg Unified School District (PUSD) is one of 130 school districts across the nation recognized for creating opportunities for traditionally underrepresented students. PUSD is a K-12 district serving the community of Pittsburg, California. Founded in 1933, the school system is committed to providing an excellent opportunity for all students to learn. Comprised of eight elementary schools, three junior high schools, one comprehensive high school, one alternative education high school, an adult school, independent study programs, alternative learning experiences, and early childhood education services, the school district serves more than 11,000 students. PUSD is located in the San Francisco Bay Area, fifty minutes outside of downtown San Francisco.