

# Ontario-Montclair

## School District

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June 5, 2023

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**# 2022-23-04**

### **PROMISE SCHOLARS CHOSEN AS A 2023 NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR BY 53RD DISTRICT ASSEMBLYMEMBER FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ**

Ontario-Montclair School District (OMSD) is proud to announce that Ontario-Montclair Schools Foundation Promise Scholars (OMSF) has been selected as a 2023 California Nonprofit of the Year by 53rd District Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez. On Wednesday, June 7, 2023, Promise Scholars will be one of more than one hundred nonprofits honored by their state senators and assembly members for their outstanding contributions to the communities they serve.

Promise Scholars is a nonprofit where parents, educators, businesses, and local leaders from Ontario and Montclair come together to strengthen our community by encouraging all students to pursue their education after high school. Promise Scholars uses a Collective Impact approach to create a community-wide college and career culture within our community. We seek to introduce all students to the opportunities available after high school to ensure they get on an educational pathway that will help them achieve their college and career goals. We know when we help them become successful and contributing adults, our entire region benefits from a brighter, more productive future.

OMSF Board President stated, "We are honored to be recognized for the important work we do. In the ten years since our founding, while the national college attendance rate increased by 1%, in OMSD, it increased by 10%. I attribute that to three main things. First, we have had great leadership. We have supportive School District Trustees and a supportive Superintendent. We have had very capable Executive Directors and Foundation board members from some of Ontario's largest and/or most influential employers. This collective leadership has served to connect business and government organizations to our mission and facilitate human and financial capital investments in the students. Second, we have the best staff and AmeriCorps staff. Without them, our mission could not be accomplished. Third, we are innovative. We learn from other industry peers nationwide and implement new programs when feasible. An example is our very successful texting program that provides individualized support and reminders, keeping students engaged year-round, which is especially critical for graduating seniors who plan on attending college or trade school but may require additional encouragement over the summer."

**"Our Community, Our Children, Our Commitment, Our Future"**

"Ensuring all OMSD students have choices when they culminate high school has been a critical focus for our District. Setting a strong foundation ensures success in high school and beyond. As an educational organization, it is our responsibility to find ways to connect with our students and families for opportunities that will bring them success in whatever career or trade pathway they select for themselves. We are grateful to our foundation Board for continuing to serve as stewards for our student's success and to our many partners for their ongoing commitment to our children.", shared OMSD Board President Sonia Alvarado.

When anyone talks about delivering meals to seniors, inspiring with music, protecting fresh water, educating children, championing the disadvantaged, speaking out for human rights, caring for animals . . . they are talking about work that nonprofits do," noted Jan Masaoka, CEO of the California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits), which serves as a partner for this awards program. "California Nonprofit of the Year allows elected leaders to shine a light on what nonprofits are accomplishing for the people in their districts and for everyone to appreciate the collective impact of nonprofits across our state."

Now in its eighth year, the Nonprofit of the Year initiative provides the opportunity for each California state legislator to choose a nonprofit organization doing outstanding work in their district. The program culminates with a celebratory luncheon at Capitol on California Nonprofits Day, which this year is June 7.

According to "Causes Count," a 2019 report commissioned by CalNonprofits, the nonprofit sector is the 4th largest industry in the state, employing more than 1.2 million people. Each year, California nonprofits generate more than \$273 billion in revenue and bring in \$40 billion in revenue from outside California. The unpaid labor contributed by volunteers at nonprofits is equivalent to 330,000 full-time jobs every year.

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