

# AZALAS



## DISTRICT SWEETHEARTS EDITION



February 2026



*Celebrating our*  
**SWEETHEARTS**

for everything  
they do

*Every Day*



1988  
ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF LATINO  
ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPERINTENDENTS



*Dr. Marvene*  
**LOBATO**

**Executive Director, AZALAS**

This February, as we celebrate kindness, connection, and heart, we want to shine a light on the sweethearts amongst us—the executive assistants, administrative assistants, front office staff, support professionals, cafeteria personnel, custodians, bus drivers, and after school tutors/teachers who are often the very first and last point of contact for our schools and districts.

These are the people who greet families with warmth, answer questions with patience, juggle a thousand details at once, and somehow do it all with grace. They are the calm in the chaos, the friendly voice on the phone, the welcoming smile at the front desk, and the steady hands that keep our organizations moving forward.

Their work may happen behind the scenes, but their impact is felt every single day—by students, parents, staff, and community members alike. They build trust, create welcoming spaces, and model professionalism and compassion in every interaction.

This month, we celebrate their dedication, heart, and unwavering commitment to service. They remind us that leadership and excellence show up in many roles—and that kindness is one of the most powerful forces in our schools.

Thank you to our Sweethearts Amongst Us for all that you do. You are truly appreciated.

*Dr. Marvene Lobato*

*"To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart."*

*- Eleanor Roosevelt*

The background is a solid red color with a gradient from light pink at the top to a darker red at the bottom. It is filled with numerous hearts of various sizes and shades of red and pink. Some hearts are solid, while others have a 3D effect with a white-to-pink gradient. The hearts are scattered across the entire page, with a higher concentration in the top-left and bottom-right corners.

*Creighton*  
Unified School District

# FEBRUARY SWEETHEART

## Ms. Alex Layshock

Garden Teacher  
Larry C. Kennedy School



February is a time to celebrate kindness, compassion, and the people who make our schools feel like home — and Ms. Layshock embodies all of that and more at Larry C. Kennedy.

Ms. Layshock sparks curiosity in every student she teaches. Through hands-on gardening lessons, harvesting experiences, and cooking classes, she transforms learning into something joyful, meaningful, and lasting. Our students don't just learn about plants — they learn about responsibility, sustainability, teamwork, and pride. They see the full cycle from seed to table, and they experience the power of growing something with their own hands.

Without Ms. Layshock, our sustainability vision would not be what it is today. She has cultivated more than gardens — she has cultivated confidence, leadership, and wonder in our students. Her work makes our campus feel alive, welcoming, and rooted in purpose.

She leads with heart, patience, and deep commitment to children. She partners with teachers, families, and community organizations

to expand opportunities for our students, always going above and beyond to ensure they have authentic, real-world learning experiences. Ms. Layshock truly makes Larry C. Kennedy feel like home.

Nominated by:

Martha L. Hernandez, Principal  
Creighton School District

# FEBRUARY SWEETHEARTS

## Ms. Chloe Merriweather & Ms. Denisse Trevizo

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers  
Larry C. Kennedy School



I am honored to nominate Ms. Merriweather and Ms. Trevizo, our phenomenal 6<sup>th</sup> grade team at Larry C. Kennedy. The relationships they have built with our middle school students are nothing short of extraordinary.

They understand that sixth grade is a pivotal year — a bridge between elementary and middle school — and they lead with both heart and high expectations.

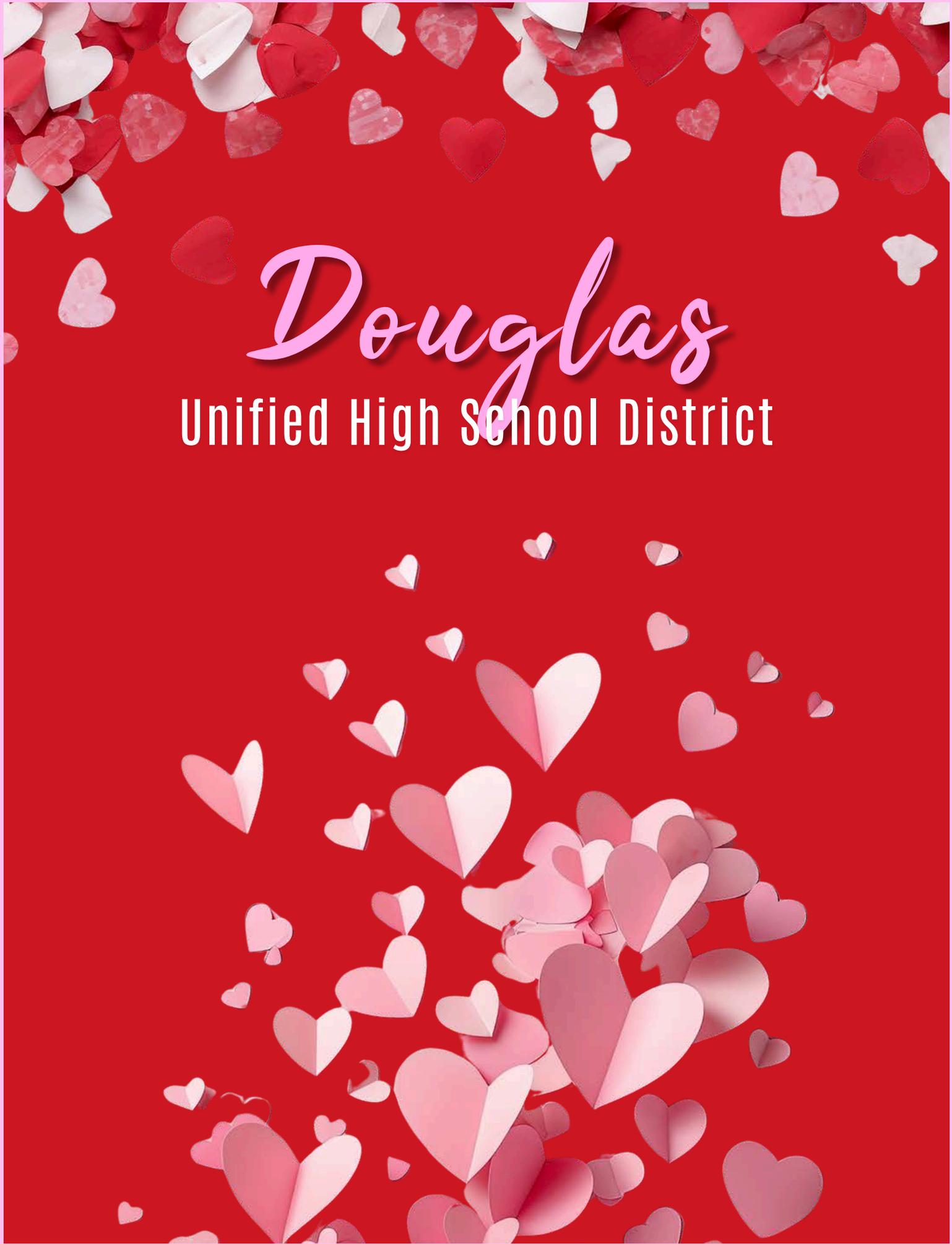
Their classrooms are structured, engaging, and filled with purpose. Students feel seen, valued, and challenged every single day.

Their impact is measurable. Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade attendance rate is currently #1 across the district at 91%, and that speaks volumes. Students want to come to school. They show up because they know they are part of a community that believes in them and pushes them to be their best. That kind of consistency doesn't happen by accident — it happens because of the teachers they are.

Ms. Merriweather and Ms. Trevizo hold students to high academic standards while nurturing strong character, accountability, and leadership. They model professionalism, collaboration, and reflection. They use data intentionally, communicate consistently with families, and maintain a culture of excellence that supports every learner. Their classrooms are places where rigor and relationships coexist. They are steady, compassionate, and relentless in their commitment to student growth.

Larry C. Kennedy is stronger because of this dynamic team. Our students are thriving because of them. They are true Sweethearts of our school community.

Nominated by:  
Martha L. Hernandez, Principal  
Creighton School District



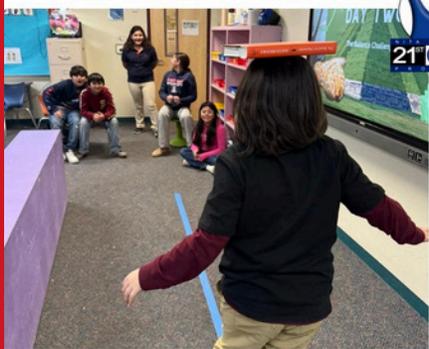
# *Douglas*

Unified High School District

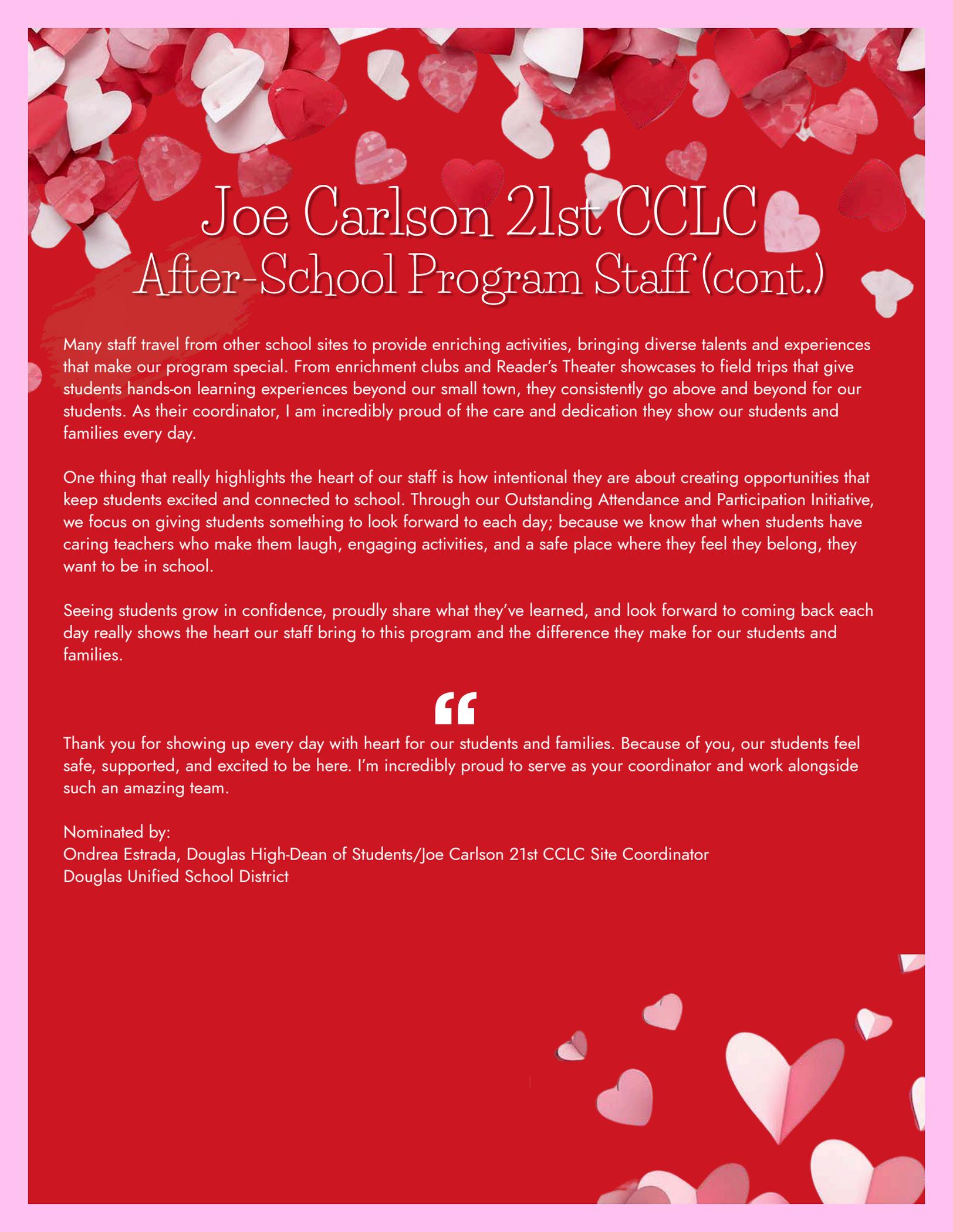
# FEBRUARY SWEETHEARTS

## Joe Carlson 21st CCLC After-School Program Staff

Joe Carlson Elementary



The Joe Carlson Elementary 21st CCLC After-School Program staff deserve this recognition because they truly lead with heart. As the only 21st Century program site in our district, they work tirelessly to provide students with opportunities to learn, grow, and feel supported after school.



# Joe Carlson 21st CCLC After-School Program Staff (cont.)

Many staff travel from other school sites to provide enriching activities, bringing diverse talents and experiences that make our program special. From enrichment clubs and Reader's Theater showcases to field trips that give students hands-on learning experiences beyond our small town, they consistently go above and beyond for our students. As their coordinator, I am incredibly proud of the care and dedication they show our students and families every day.

One thing that really highlights the heart of our staff is how intentional they are about creating opportunities that keep students excited and connected to school. Through our Outstanding Attendance and Participation Initiative, we focus on giving students something to look forward to each day; because we know that when students have caring teachers who make them laugh, engaging activities, and a safe place where they feel they belong, they want to be in school.

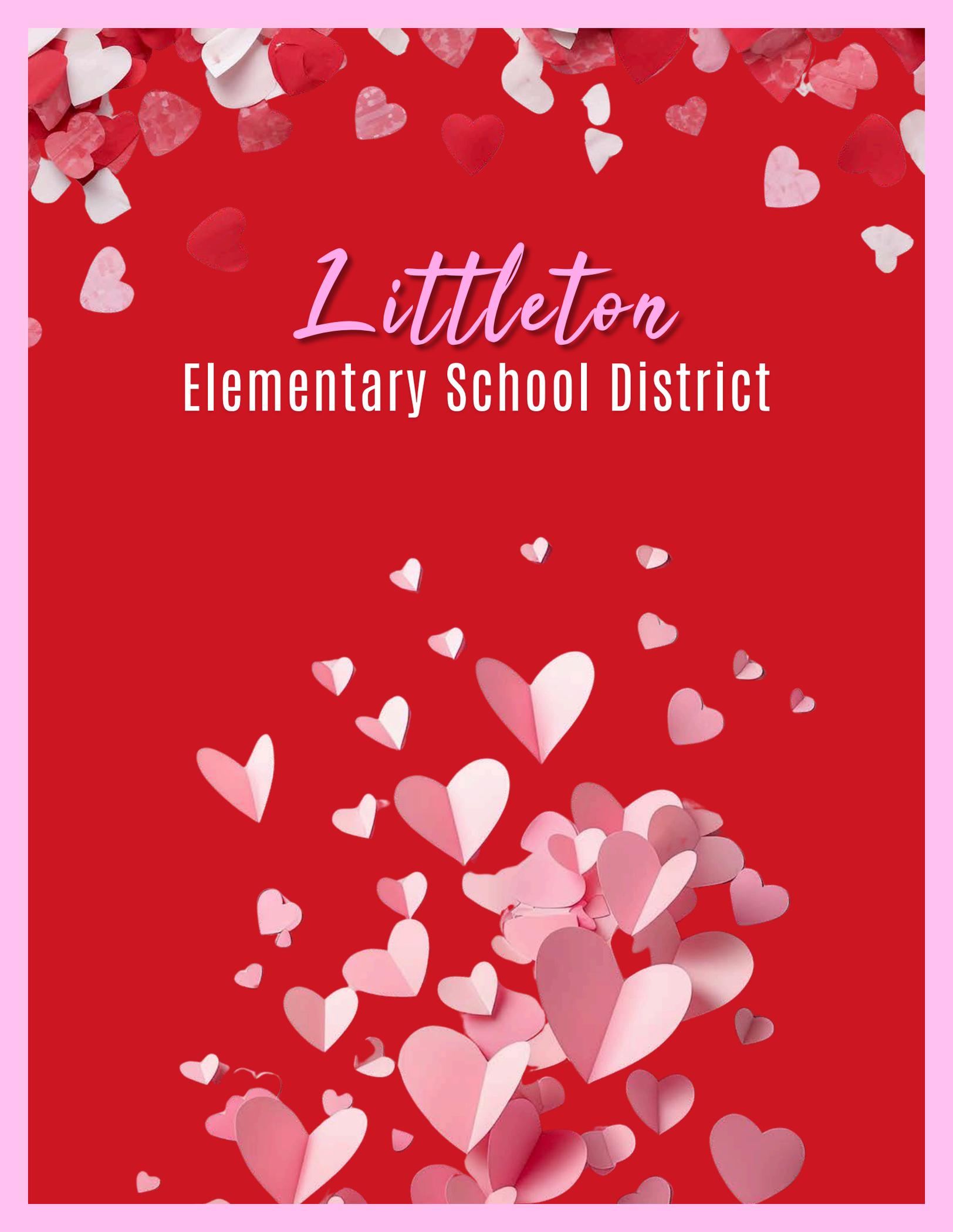
Seeing students grow in confidence, proudly share what they've learned, and look forward to coming back each day really shows the heart our staff bring to this program and the difference they make for our students and families.

“

Thank you for showing up every day with heart for our students and families. Because of you, our students feel safe, supported, and excited to be here. I'm incredibly proud to serve as your coordinator and work alongside such an amazing team.

Nominated by:

Ondrea Estrada, Douglas High-Dean of Students/Joe Carlson 21st CCLC Site Coordinator  
Douglas Unified School District

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*Littleton*  
Elementary School District

# FEBRUARY SWEETHEART

# Dr. Michael Cagle

Principal  
Country Place Leadership Academy  
Littleton Elementary School District



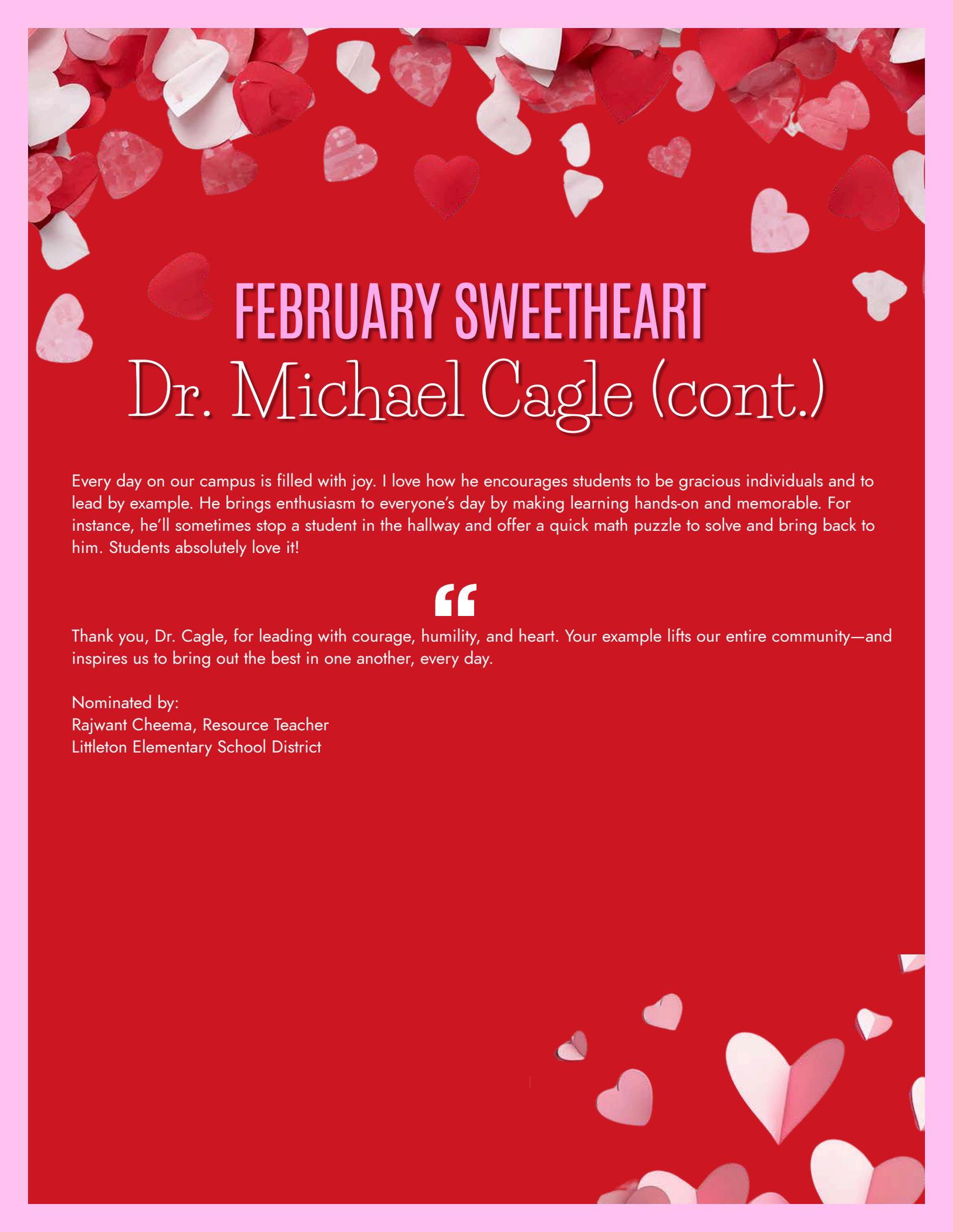
## Leading with Heart: A Lighthouse for Our School Community

First and foremost, I have great respect for Dr. Cagle. He is a distinguished leader who has cultivated a positive, collaborative environment where students, staff, and our community can truly thrive within strong, thoughtful frameworks. He believes in every individual and their potential. He brings out the best in his team, empowering them to lead while offering his expertise and guidance.

His energy and infectious smile everyday on campus and open-door policy so that staff can reach out to him to share any information or concerns. He listens to the concerns and believes in problem-solving as a team. Even though he has won many accolades at state, national, and global level, he is very humble.

Because of his superb leadership, and his faith in everyone on campus, Country Place Leadership has been a Lighthouse School for the last two years- a testament to a community built on dignity, belonging, and excellence.

Dr. Cagle genuinely cares for our staff, students, and community. He often reminds us: "Family first." He encourages us to care for ourselves and our loved ones so we can bring our best to our work. He goes the extra mile to meet students' and families' needs, personally calling families to offer support and resources. He champions diversity and shows deep respect for multiculturalism, ensuring every voice is heard and valued. This consistent, human-centered leadership is felt in every corner of our campus.



# FEBRUARY SWEETHEART

## Dr. Michael Cagle (cont.)

Every day on our campus is filled with joy. I love how he encourages students to be gracious individuals and to lead by example. He brings enthusiasm to everyone's day by making learning hands-on and memorable. For instance, he'll sometimes stop a student in the hallway and offer a quick math puzzle to solve and bring back to him. Students absolutely love it!



Thank you, Dr. Cagle, for leading with courage, humility, and heart. Your example lifts our entire community—and inspires us to bring out the best in one another, every day.

Nominated by:  
Rajwant Cheema, Resource Teacher  
Littleton Elementary School District

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*Nogales*  
Unified School District

# FEBRUARY SWEETHEART

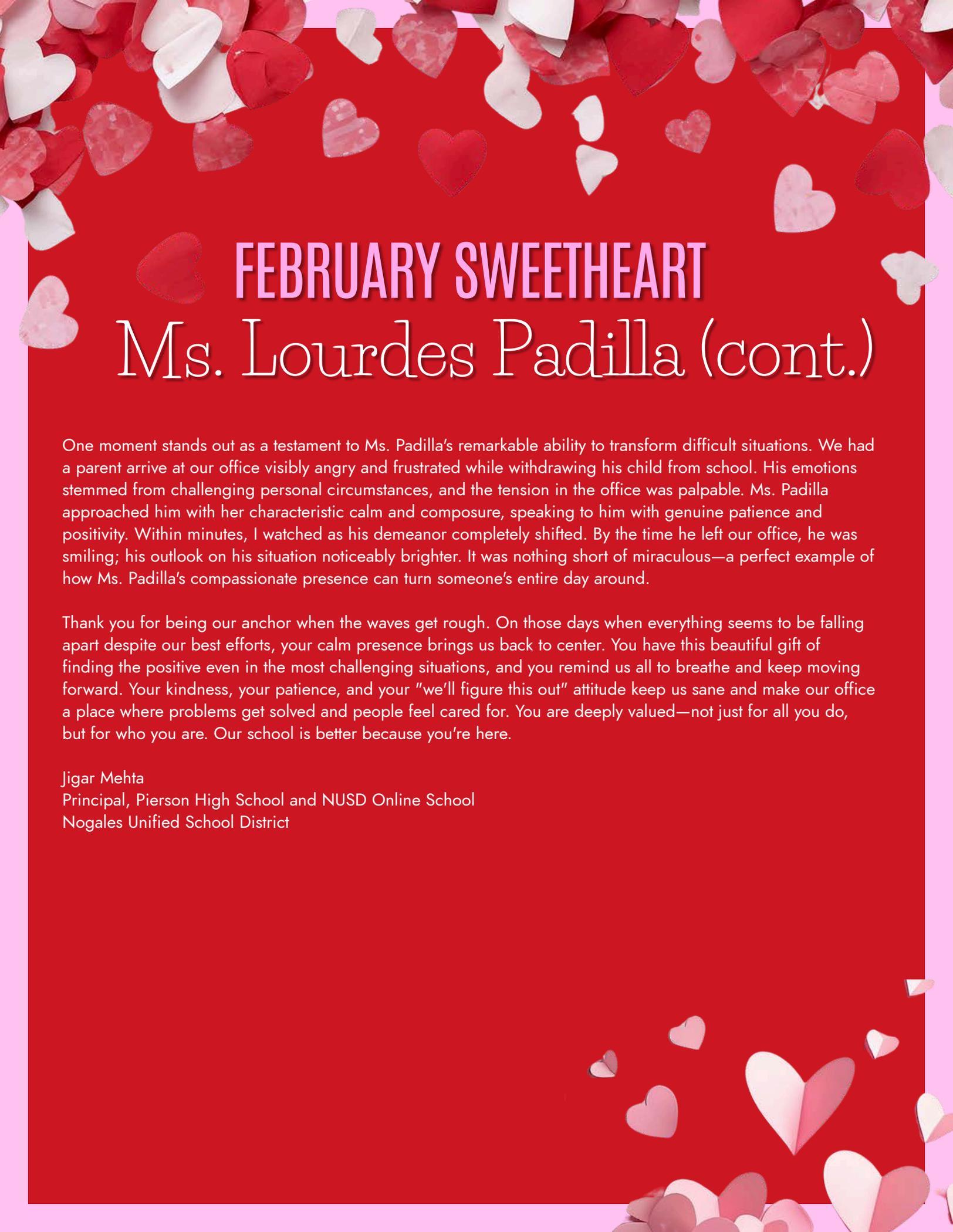
## Ms. Lourdes Padilla

School Secretary  
Pierson High School and NUSD Online School



Ms. Lourdes Padilla embodies the heart of our school community. In her two years as our school secretary, she has become the calm, steady presence that holds our office together. Her natural inclination to help and solve problems, rather than simply point them out, makes her truly exceptional. Ms. Padilla approaches every challenge—whether it's a frazzled colleague, a frustrated parent, or a chaotic day—with patience, composure, and an unwavering positive spirit. She doesn't just perform her duties; she creates an atmosphere of peace and possibility that radiates throughout our entire school.

Ms. Padilla's kindness manifests in countless small gestures that create a ripple effect of care throughout our school. When our counselor, Ms. Vasquez, is running behind schedule with no time for lunch, Ms. Padilla ensures she's taken care of—either ordering food for her or sharing her own meal without hesitation. She has embraced new technologies and improved office processes, all while maintaining the delicate balance between her professional responsibilities and personal life. Parents consistently share kind words about their interactions with her, and our school community has come to deeply value her presence. Her calm demeanor and patient communication style make everyone—from stressed staff members to concerned families—feel heard, supported, and valued.

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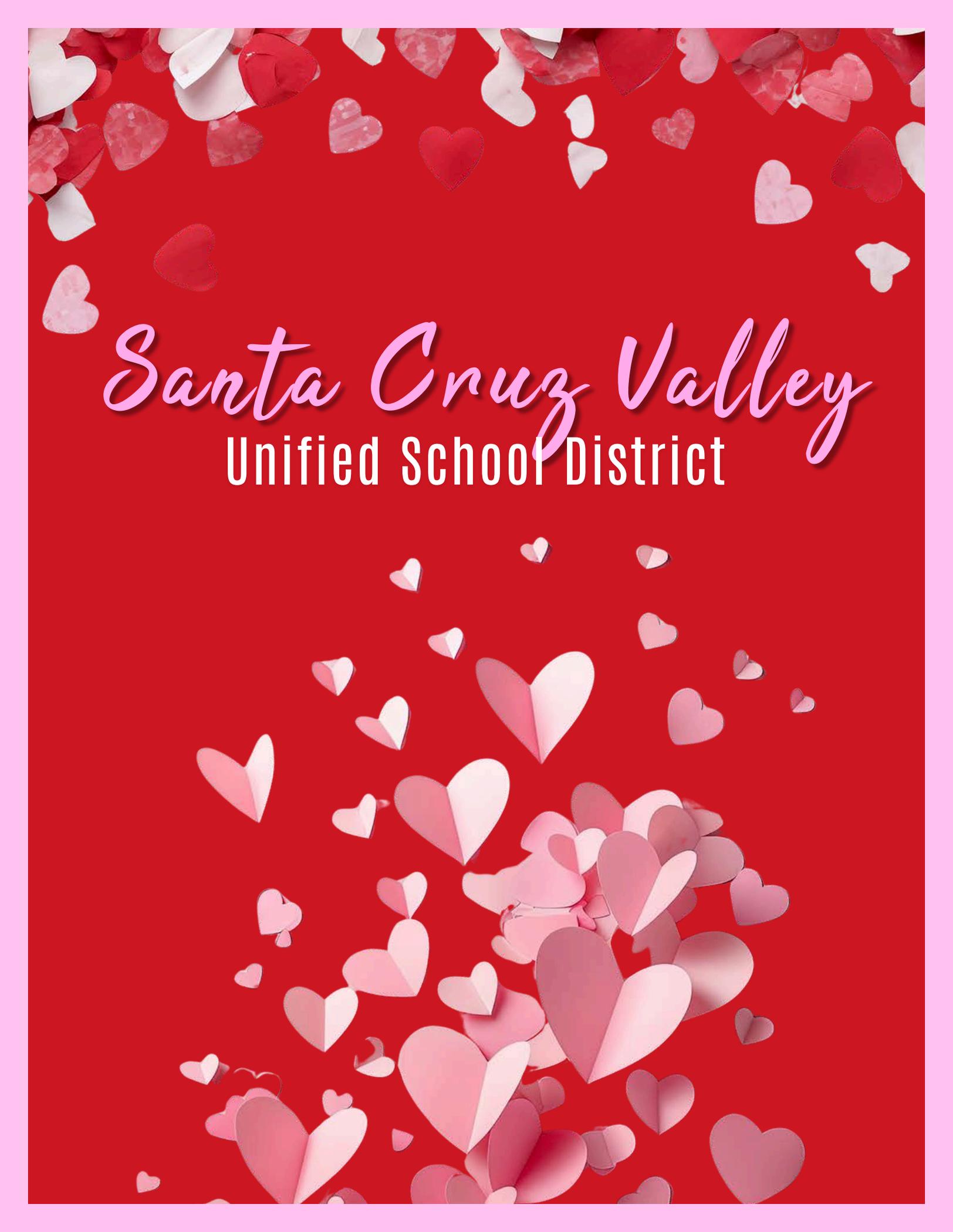
# FEBRUARY SWEETHEART

## Ms. Lourdes Padilla (cont.)

One moment stands out as a testament to Ms. Padilla's remarkable ability to transform difficult situations. We had a parent arrive at our office visibly angry and frustrated while withdrawing his child from school. His emotions stemmed from challenging personal circumstances, and the tension in the office was palpable. Ms. Padilla approached him with her characteristic calm and composure, speaking to him with genuine patience and positivity. Within minutes, I watched as his demeanor completely shifted. By the time he left our office, he was smiling; his outlook on his situation noticeably brighter. It was nothing short of miraculous—a perfect example of how Ms. Padilla's compassionate presence can turn someone's entire day around.

Thank you for being our anchor when the waves get rough. On those days when everything seems to be falling apart despite our best efforts, your calm presence brings us back to center. You have this beautiful gift of finding the positive even in the most challenging situations, and you remind us all to breathe and keep moving forward. Your kindness, your patience, and your "we'll figure this out" attitude keep us sane and make our office a place where problems get solved and people feel cared for. You are deeply valued—not just for all you do, but for who you are. Our school is better because you're here.

Jigar Mehta  
Principal, Pierson High School and NUSD Online School  
Nogales Unified School District



*Santa Cruz Valley*  
Unified School District

# FEBRUARY SWEETHEART

## Briana Rodriguez

Parent Liaison, Mountain View Elementary School  
Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District



Briana Rodriguez truly embodies what it means to be a Sweetheart Employee. Her kindness, compassion, and genuine love for her students shine through in everything she does. From warmly welcoming children each morning to laughing and playing with them at recess, Briana makes every student feel seen, safe, and valued. She goes above and beyond by helping plan special events like the Spelling Bee and Career Day, always giving her time and energy with a joyful heart. No matter the task, Briana shows up with a smile, a positive attitude, and an unwavering dedication that makes SCV35 a better place every single day.

Briana is a true sweetheart because of the genuine love and care she shows to everyone around her. She takes the time to build meaningful connections with students, making each child feel special, supported, and understood. Her warmth extends to staff and families as well, as she is always willing to help, listen, and step in wherever she is needed. Briana's kindness is felt in both the big moments and the small, everyday interactions, and her positive spirit helps create a welcoming environment that truly feels like a family.

Nominated by:

Mr. David Verdugo, Superintendent  
Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35



# FEBRUARY SWEETHEART

# Maria Peña

Parent Liaison - Rio Rico High School  
Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District



(Ms. Peña, pictured second from left)

Maria Peña - Parent Liaison - Rio Rico High School Maria Peña deserves to be featured as a February Sweetheart Employee because she consistently acts with compassion and initiative, never waiting to be asked. She instinctively steps in to support students who need extra clothing, a safe place to talk, or someone they can trust. She also plays a vital role in helping families feel welcomed and understood by providing translation support during parent teacher conferences and other school events. Maria's selflessness, awareness, and dedication to meeting the needs of others make her a true sweetheart and an essential part of our school community

Maria Peña is a true sweetheart to students, staff, and families because of her constant presence, reliability, and genuine care for the Rio Rico High School community. In her role as parent liaison, she takes on an enormous range of responsibilities, and she does so with dedication and heart. Students and staff know they can count on Maria for support and guidance every day. When visiting Rio Rico High School, you will often find her walking around campus checking in on students, helping students get into the Rico or Rita mascot costumes for a pep rally or assembly, or assisting with the setup for the many events hosted by the high school throughout the year. Her willingness to step in wherever she is needed makes her an invaluable part of the school family.

Nominated by:

Mr. David Verdugo, Superintendent  
Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District

# FEBRUARY SWEETHEART

# Irma Garcia

Parent Liaison - San Cayetano Elementary School  
Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District



(Ms. Garcia, pictured center)

Irma Garcia deserves to be featured as a February Sweetheart Employee because, in just one year as a parent liaison, she has already made a meaningful impact on the lives of so many students and families. Her warm and welcoming nature helps parents and students feel immediately comfortable and supported. Irma consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that every student is cared for and has what they need while at school. Her compassion, dedication, and genuine concern for others truly embody the spirit of a Sweetheart Employee.

Irma Garcia is a true sweetheart to students, staff, and families because of the genuine care and compassion she shows every single day. She creates a welcoming and supportive environment where parents feel heard, students feel safe, and staff feel supported. Irma works closely with her school administration to help host events such as the Spelling Bee and other school activities that bring the community together. She also oversees students during recess and lunch, always keeping a watchful and caring eye to ensure they are safe, supported, and included. Irma is consistently willing to go the extra mile to meet students' needs, and her kindness and dedication have quickly made a lasting impact on the school community.

Nominated by:

Mr. David Verdugo, Superintendent

Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35

# FEBRUARY SWEETHEART

# Angie Lopez

Executive Assistant, Governing Board Secretary  
Back-to-School BLiTZ Coordinator  
Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District



(Ms. Lopez, pictured center)

Angie Lopez deserves to be featured as a February Sweetheart Employee because of her 23 years of dedicated service and the profound impact she has had on thousands of students across the district. Throughout her career, she has taken on many roles and responsibilities, always stepping up wherever she is needed. Her commitment, leadership, and willingness to go above and beyond make her an essential part of our district and truly set her apart.

Angie is being recognized because of the care, compassion, and reliability she brings to everything she does. She coordinates the annual Back to School Blitz entirely on her own, bringing together dozens of community organizations to provide students with free school supplies, uniforms, and meals. In her role as Governing Board Secretary, she manages agendas, minutes, and countless behind the scenes logistics that keep the district running smoothly. Angie also attends conferences to continue learning and improving her skills, always with the goal of better serving others. Whenever someone is in need, Angie is the first to step up, approaching every interaction with kindness, positivity, and a genuine desire to help.

Nominated by:  
Mr. David Verdugo, Superintendent  
Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35



*Tolleson*  
Union High School District

# FEBRUARY SWEETHEART

# Rocio Niebla

Administrative Assistant to the Director of Educational Data and Innovation (EDI)  
Office of Learning and Academic Success (OLAS)  
Tolleson Union High School District



Rocio Niebla is an exceptional administrative assistant whose professionalism, reliability, and heart have made a lasting impact on the Office of Learning and Academic Success (OLAS) in the Tolleson Union High School District. She supports the Educational Data and Innovation division and the broader OLAS team with outstanding attention to detail, organization, and care. From managing purchase orders and coordinating travel to supporting attendance reporting needs, Rocio approaches every responsibility with precision and follow-through that our team deeply relies on. What truly sets Rocio apart is the warmth, creativity, and compassion she brings into OLAS every single day. Over the past three years, she has played a pivotal role in shaping a positive, connected, and supportive office culture. Rocio is often the first to recognize birthdays, retirements, milestones, and personal achievements across OLAS, and she takes it upon herself to thoughtfully plan celebrations, design decorations, and create handmade cards. She never seeks recognition for these efforts. Her motivation is simply to make others feel valued and appreciated. Rocio's dedication, creativity, and kindness make her an essential part of OLAS and someone who truly embodies the spirit of a "Sweetheart Employee."

# Rocio Niebla (cont.)

Rocio consistently goes above and beyond to make others feel seen, supported, and cared for throughout the Office of Learning and Academic Success. Her positivity is genuine and contagious, and she creates a welcoming environment through meaningful, everyday actions, such as checking in on colleagues, offering encouragement, or brightening shared spaces with her artistic talents and love for plants. She advocates for spirit days and morale boosters within OLAS and participates wholeheartedly, bringing joy and connection to the workplace. Rocio's humility, dependability, and authentic care for people make her a true sweetheart to everyone she interacts with.

One memorable example of Rocio's heart occurred when a team member shared she would be getting married over the holiday break in Guam. Understanding how meaningful this milestone was, Rocio took the initiative to help organize a beautiful celebration within OLAS. She planned the event from start to finish, including purchasing supplies, decorating the space, coordinating the gathering, and helping with cleanup afterward. She did all of this quietly and joyfully, without expectation of recognition. Another powerful example of her impact was during the retirement of a beloved mathcoach after 37 years of service to the district. Rocio collaborated with colleagues across OLAS to organize one of the most heartfelt retirement celebrations our office has experienced. She gathered messages and memories from across the district, coordinated decorations and a potluck, and ensured the retiree and his wife felt honored and deeply appreciated. Her efforts created a meaningful and unforgettable farewell that left a lasting impression on everyone involved.

Rocio brightens people's days throughout OLAS in countless ways through the generous sharing of her time and artistic talents. She is an artist at heart and expresses her appreciation through personalized cards, painted gifts, and handmade creations that colleagues cherish. She also cares for and gifts plants, bringing warmth and life into our shared OLAS spaces. One particularly meaningful gesture was a colored pencil drawing Rocio created for a colleague after they moved into their retirement home, a keepsake that will be treasured forever.



*Rocio, thank you for filling the Office of Learning and Academic Success with creativity, joy, and genuine kindness. You make our workplace a place where people feel valued, safe, and supported. Your heart shines through in everything you do, and our team is stronger and more connected because of you. You are truly the sweetheart of our office.*

*Nominated by:  
Wendy Davy and Tara Duvall*



*Tucson*  
Unified School District

# FEBRUARY SWEETHEART

## Mrs. Socorro Diaz

Sr. Administrative Assistant, Multicultural Curriculum Department  
Tucson Unified School District

Mrs. Diaz arrives early every day with a warm smile and the positive spirit that defines her. She's consistently supportive and resourceful, anticipating needs before they're asked for—whether tracking down materials, preparing book baskets, or finding creative ways to stretch our budget. Her calm efficiency and can-do attitude keep the Multicultural Curriculum Department running smoothly and lift everyone's spirits.

Mrs. Diaz will do anything for anyone who needs help. She greets everyone with genuine warmth and never lets personal hardships show—she arrives each day with boundless enthusiasm, making sure teachers receive their book baskets and that the MC staff and I have everything we need. Her sparkling attitude, quiet generosity, and impeccable organizational skills turn challenges into smooth, manageable tasks and make our workplace a kinder, more efficient place.

One evening my work computer camera failed during an important late meeting. The next morning, I had multiple meetings back to back. Mrs. Diaz arrived early, had already found a replacement laptop, cleaned and disinfected it, fully charged and updated it, and brought it to me so I could join the meetings without worry. She took my malfunctioning device and submitted a ticket to get it repaired. This thoughtful, proactive care is who she is every day. She also keeps our Multicultural Library beautifully organized and refreshes it for every season and holiday, making our space welcoming and functional.

Mrs. Diaz often brightens our mornings with her smile, and small, thoughtful gestures—a cup of coffee, a little treat, or a shiny surprise for my team or me. Once, after a a medical appointment I had a last-minute meeting request from by supervisor I had to meet at her office but had left my computer bag with important documents in my office. I called Mrs. Diaz and she not only retrieved the bag but met me at my supervisor's office with everything I needed—and a few extras. She truly knows no stranger. Her kindness, warmth, quick wit, and generosity make every day easier and more joyful.



To Mrs. Diaz — Thank you for your unfailing support, sparkling attitude, and thoughtful care. We appreciate you today and every day. Happy Valentine's Day!

Nominated by:  
Dr. Rosalinda Rodriguez  
Director of Multicultural Curriculum  
Tucson Unified School District



*Yuma*  
Union School District

# FEBRUARY SWEETHEART

## Monica Gonzalez

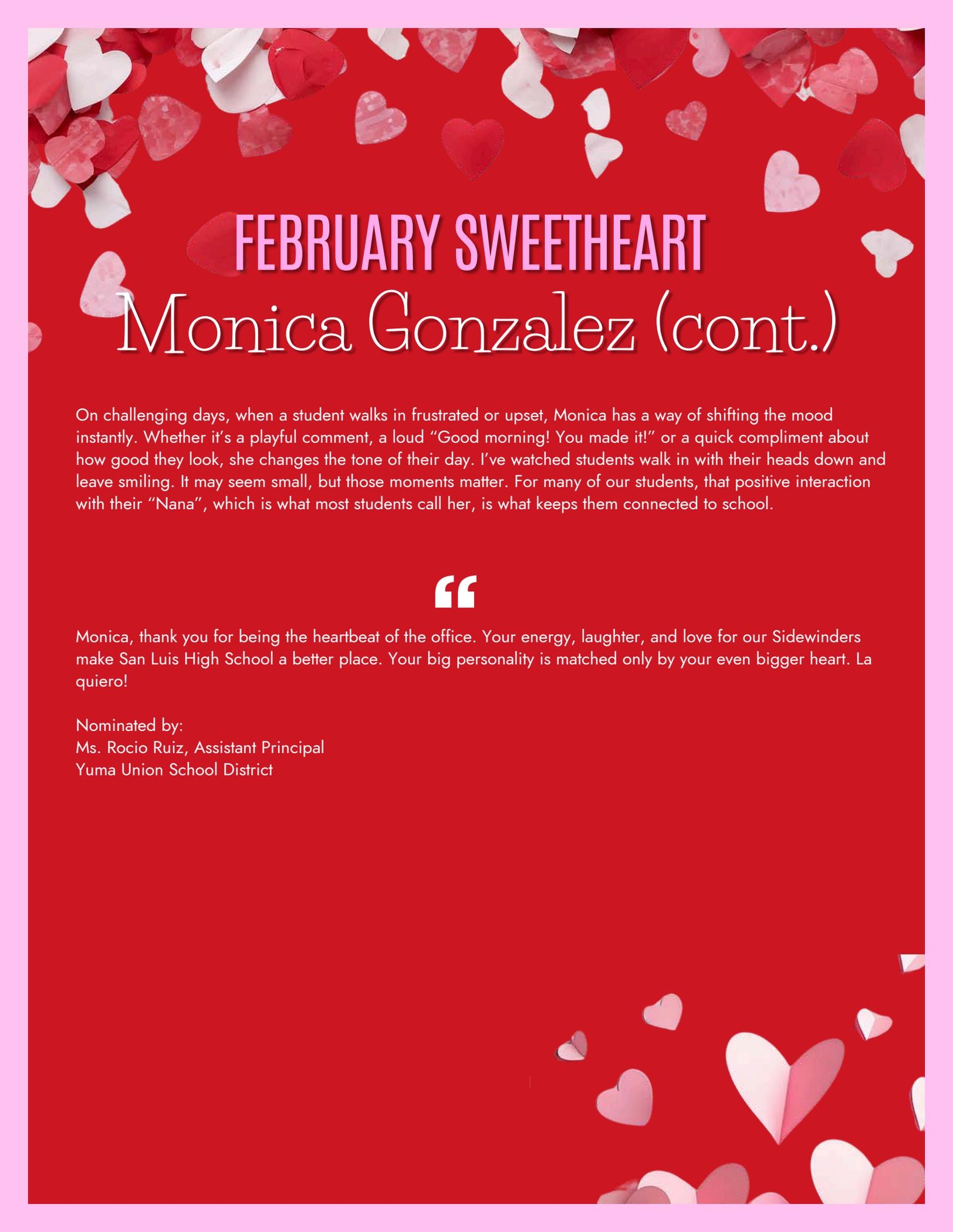
Attendance Officer  
San Luis High School



Mrs. Monica Gonzalez deserves to be featured as the February "Sweetheart Employee" because she is the lively, welcoming presence our students and families experience the moment they walk into the Attendance Office. Monica is not quiet, and that's exactly why students love her. Her voice, energy, and personality fill the space in a way that makes people feel seen immediately. She greets everyone with a big smile, checks in to make sure they're doing okay, and consistently goes the extra mile when it comes to customer service. Beyond her warm interactions, she plays a critical role in monitoring attendance, supporting families, and collaborating with multiple departments to ensure students stay on track. She does her job with heart, humor, and purpose every single day.

Her cheerfulness is contagious. Students don't just pass through the Attendance Office; they stop and connect with her. Monica doesn't only know students by name; she knows their stories. She remembers what they're going through, asks about their families, follows up on conversations, and she makes them feel important. Staff and families appreciate her because of her sense of humor and her loving nature. She builds relationships that go way beyond role.

Monica came to San Luis High School during my second year as an administrator. I was still adjusting to the role, and some days felt especially heavy. Watching her interact with students and staff, seeing the joy and authenticity she brings to every conversation, instantly lifts my spirits. To this day, I'll stop by her desk for a quick exchange and a few laughs, and somehow the day feels lighter. Through her presence and the way she connects with people, she reminds others that they matter and that they are important. She does that for me, she does that for many of our staff members, and most importantly, she does that for our students every single day.



# FEBRUARY SWEETHEART

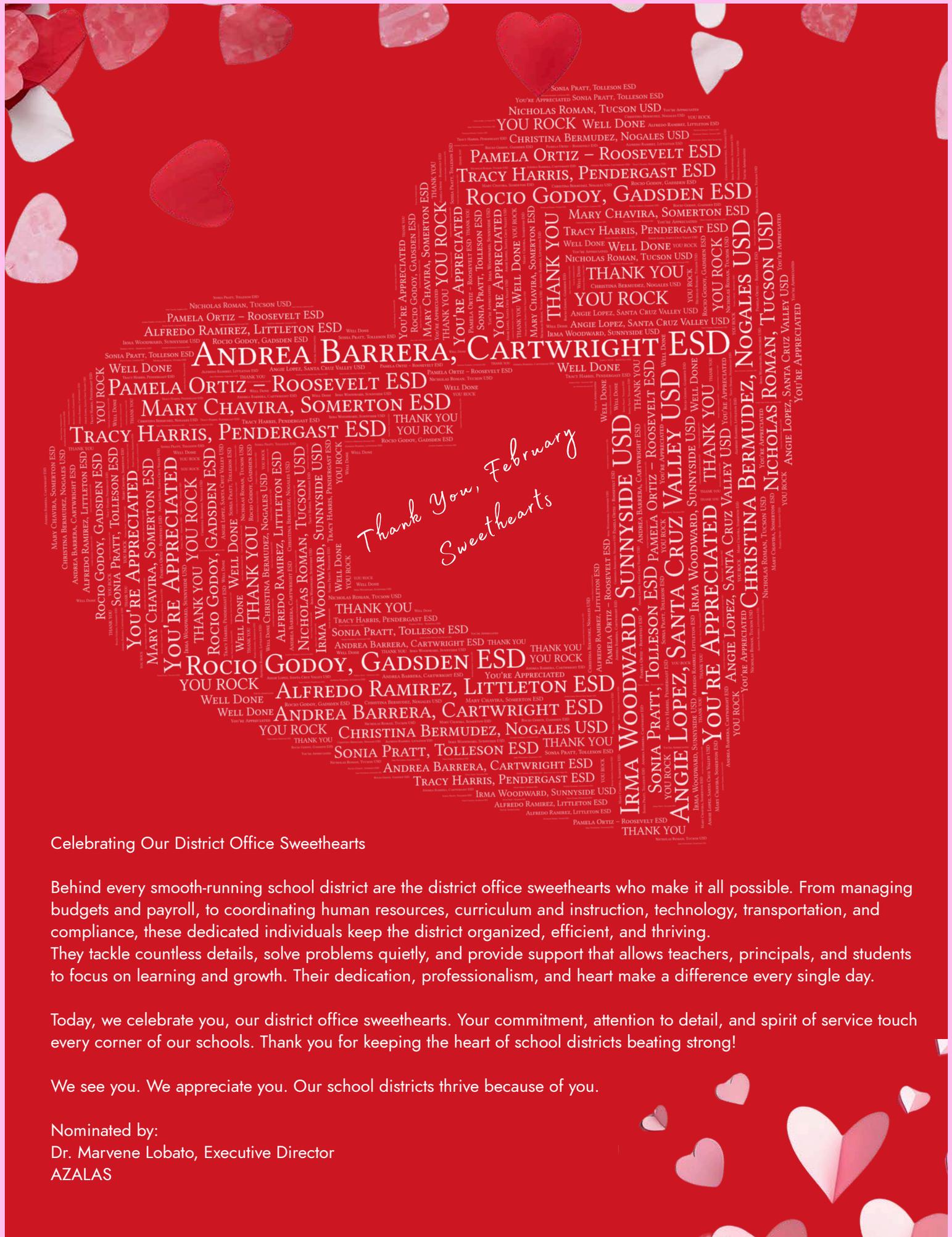
## Monica Gonzalez (cont.)

On challenging days, when a student walks in frustrated or upset, Monica has a way of shifting the mood instantly. Whether it's a playful comment, a loud "Good morning! You made it!" or a quick compliment about how good they look, she changes the tone of their day. I've watched students walk in with their heads down and leave smiling. It may seem small, but those moments matter. For many of our students, that positive interaction with their "Nana", which is what most students call her, is what keeps them connected to school.



Monica, thank you for being the heartbeat of the office. Your energy, laughter, and love for our Sidewinders make San Luis High School a better place. Your big personality is matched only by your even bigger heart. La quiero!

Nominated by:  
Ms. Rocio Ruiz, Assistant Principal  
Yuma Union School District



*Thank You, February Sweethearts*

**Celebrating Our District Office Sweethearts**

Behind every smooth-running school district are the district office sweethearts who make it all possible. From managing budgets and payroll, to coordinating human resources, curriculum and instruction, technology, transportation, and compliance, these dedicated individuals keep the district organized, efficient, and thriving. They tackle countless details, solve problems quietly, and provide support that allows teachers, principals, and students to focus on learning and growth. Their dedication, professionalism, and heart make a difference every single day.

Today, we celebrate you, our district office sweethearts. Your commitment, attention to detail, and spirit of service touch every corner of our schools. Thank you for keeping the heart of school districts beating strong!

We see you. We appreciate you. Our school districts thrive because of you.

Nominated by:  
Dr. Marvene Lobato, Executive Director  
AZALAS



Invest in Your Future

# Scholarship Program 2026



## About the SCHOLARSHIP

The Arizona Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (AZALAS) is happy to announce our annual High School Scholarship program for graduating high school seniors.

If selected, a scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 will be provided to students who will be attending a higher institution of postsecondary education during the 2026-2027 school year.

## Eligibility CRITERIA

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- ▶ Be a graduating high school senior
- ▶ One parent must be of Hispanic heritage
- ▶ Possess a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5

Scholarships will be awarded at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee and are contingent upon high school graduation, as well as proof of acceptance to a higher institution of postsecondary education.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, March 23, 2026**

**NOTE: Incomplete application packages will not be accepted.** Family members of AZALAS scholarship committee members are ineligible to apply.

## QUESTIONS?

Contact: Tracy Harris  
tracy.harris@azalas.org

## APPLICATION PROCESS

For scholarship consideration, scan the QR code shown or visit <https://forms.gle/dVjY7W3NsZbKXXDe8> to complete the **application AND** submit the following:

- ✓ Letter of recommendation from a school counselor, teacher, coach, minister or other school official
- ✓ A typewritten essay (500 words or less). The essay must be written in the applicant's own words and elaborate on the following:  
*How has your Latino heritage influenced your life's goals, mission and desire to impact the world?*
- ✓ A high school transcript (a scanned unofficial transcript is acceptable)

Submit all documents by the deadline of **March 23, 2026.**



Make it a great day!

*Tracy Harris*

Let us be grateful  
to the people who  
make us happy; they  
are the charming  
gardeners who make  
our souls blossom.

– Marcel Proust



1988  
ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF LATINO  
ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPERINTENDENTS