

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Monday, February 16, 2026

The official monthly EEF Newsletter will highlight Foundation grant recipients, upcoming and past events, and happenings around Escondido that affect the students of the city.

Fall In Love With Escondido Schools

The Escondido Education Foundation held it's annual Fall In Love with Escondido Schools charity auction event on Friday, February 6 at St. Petka's Serbian Orthodox Church in San Marcos.

The event was MC'd by EUSD Board President Doug Paulson who masterfully entertained and chanted auction items to a crowd of over 150 educators, donors, and community members. DJ Shiloh played contemporary music as the Culinary Arts Club of Orange Glen High School provided the crowd with a scrumptious Greek dinner while Mayer Mac and mayoral candidate Elias Velazquez poured wine and champagne.

Later EEF board vice president Pam Putnicki and her team presented Caring Hearts Awards to Katy Maskiewicz, Cynthia Zeighami, and Nancy Narron for their unending dedication and care to the students of EUSD.

Overall the evening was a resounding success as the crowd bid on numerous gift baskets created by board member Anesh Speck, as well as several vacation packages.

The board of directors of the Escondido Education Foundation is wholeheartedly thankful to our donors, participants, and supporters for helping to make this event one of the most successful we've had in our 21 years of existence.



The Writing Celebration

EUSD held their annual Writing Celebration on Wednesday February 4th at Bear Valley Middle School. Here is a very thoughtful letter to EEF from former board member and EUSD administrator Mr. Rick Ausby:

Good morning and happy Tuesday!

Oh, what a night!

Last Wednesday evening, EUSD recognized students from every school across the district for their exemplary writing at the annual Writing Celebration, held at Bear Valley Middle School. I had the privilege of driving a family whose grandmother's wheelchair would not fit in their Corolla—giving me the perfect excuse to attend yet another celebration. Over the years, as an assistant principal and principal, I've attended more than 20.

I'm writing to express my appreciation for how thoughtfully and beautifully the Writing Celebration Committee made this year's event. From the moment families arrived, cheerleaders enthusiastically welcomed students and guests. Inside, the students' incredible writing pieces were showcased on elegant display boards throughout the building. If anyone has ever doubted the quality education our students receive in EUSD, reading these pieces would undoubtedly renew their confidence in public education—especially here in our district.

I would especially like to commend Jo-Ann Fox and the Escondido Education Foundation. This year, instead of standard certificates, students received high-quality, gold-trimmed certificates worthy of such a prestigious honor. Each was enclosed in a beautiful folder, allowing families to proudly display and preserve them for years to come. Thank you, Ali and Jo-Ann, for your dedication and for making this such a memorable and meaningful night for our students and their families.

*Sincerely,
Rick Ausby
Substitute Principal (EUSD)*



The Escondido Education Foundation is a community driven fundraising organization which provides grants that empower educators, inspire learning, and promote innovation and academic excellence in EUSD

Contact us: escoedfoundation@gmail.com