



CHAMPIONS **EDUCATE** HERE

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**COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF FOUNDATION, LOS ANGELES HOST COMMITTEE &
LA84 FOUNDATION REVEAL ADDITIONAL EDUCATORS SELECTED FOR
“CHAMPIONS EDUCATE HERE” LEGACY PROGRAM**

*46 Local Educators Selected to Further Their Impact
From the Classroom to the Playground and Beyond*

LOS ANGELES (December 15, 2022) — With the 2023 College Football Playoff (CFP) National Championship less than a month away at SoFi Stadium, the College Football Playoff Foundation, the Los Angeles College Football Playoff National Championship Host Committee, the LA84 Foundation and the Play Equity Fund are excited to announce 20 additional educators have been selected as part of the "Champions Educate Here" legacy program.

The program was established to shine the spotlight of the College Football Playoff National Championship on the impactful work of 46 local educators and provide funding and support for their programs aimed at nurturing the academic, mental health, and social-emotional needs of students through sport, play, and movement.

The "Champions Educate Here" legacy program initially identified 26 educators in September 2022 and is set to honor the final 20 educators selected today, in the concluding round of the program. The selected educators include physical education teachers, elementary and special education teachers, coaches, and after-school staff throughout the Los Angeles region. Each selected educator will receive up to \$20,000 to expand their efforts at their respective schools.

List of Educators

Noe Almandariz—South El Monte High School, El Monte Unified School District
Kathleen Clark—Girls Academic Leadership Academy (GALA), LAUSD
Jacob Correa—Whittier High School, Whittier Union High School District
Nelly Cristales—32nd Street Elementary School, LAUSD
Percival Dela Cruz—Alliance Renee and Meyer Luskin Academy High School, LAUSD
Lisa Finegan—Inner City Education Foundation (ICEF) Public Schools, LAUSD
Kevin Glaspy—Covina Valley Unified School District
Janelle Guzman—Puente Charter Elementary School, LAUSD
Jose Hidalgo—South Gate High School, LAUSD

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Vincent Kezman—Birmingham Community Charter High School, LAUSD

Mike Martinez—Katherine Edwards Middle School, Whittier City School District

Celeste Modster—University Pathways Public Service Academy, LAUSD

Darryl McClain—Susan Miller Dorsey High School, LAUSD

Jose Rivas—Lennox Math, Science and Technology Academy, Lennox School District

Alexandria Sanchez—William Workman High School, Hacienda La Puente Unified School District

Miles Tabarez—Theodore Roosevelt Senior High School, LAUSD

Can Tran—Arroyo High School, El Monte Unified School District

Malissa Vanegas—Will Rogers High School, LAUSD

Tamryn Wilkins—54th Street Elementary School, LAUSD

Jaron Williams—Citizens of the World Charter Schools Los Angeles, LAUSD

“We have seen from our first announcement of educators that sport, play and movement are having a significant impact on positive outcomes for students in classrooms across Los Angeles County. Today, we join with our partners to honor 20 more local educators who are creating learning opportunities for their students through healthy movement,” said **Renata Simril, President & CEO of the LA84 Foundation and President of the Play Equity Fund**. “The additional support provided to these educators through Champions Educate Here as a legacy of the 2023 College Football Playoff National Championship is transformational for each educator, their schools and community. We believe sport, play and movement in schools gives youth a greater chance to succeed. And, when our kids thrive, we all thrive.”

The reach and impact of the "Champions Educate Here" program is significant, with the 46 educators recognized from 12 school districts across Los Angeles, as well as parochial schools. The Champion Educators serve students from TK/Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle School and High School.

"The Champions Educate Here legacy program has been a tremendous opportunity to shine the spotlight on 46 local educators and provide them valuable resources to further address the social-emotional needs of their students through sport, play, and movement," said **James Rishwain, Chairman of the Los Angeles College Football Playoff National Championship Host Committee**. "The stories that have emerged continue to inspire our work surrounding the College Football Playoff National Championship and we are proud to celebrate these educators for the many ways in which they champion the growth of LA's youth.

In addition to recognizing the 46 educators, the College Football Playoff Foundation will work directly with Los Angeles, Pasadena, and Inglewood Unified School Districts to provide additional grants and implement its Extra Yard for Teachers initiatives to retain outstanding teachers and recruit future educators. Activities include over 10 Extra Yard Makeover Projects to upgrade media centers in those school districts, a series of A+ Teacher appreciation lunches, DonorsChoose funding for classroom projects, and unique teacher recognitions based upon student and parent nominations. Teachers can also sign up for the Extra Yard for Teachers Summit, taking place on Saturday, January 7 at the LA Convention Center. Registration for the in-person event and the online options is now open at CFP-Foundation.org.

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“We are grateful for the collaboration with the host committee and thrilled with all of our partnerships in Southern California,” said **Britton Banowsky, Executive Director of the College Football Playoff Foundation**. “The work supporting educators extends throughout Los Angeles County and will make a difference in the lives of thousands of current and future teachers.”

All 46 educators in the “Champions Educate Here” legacy program will be acknowledged at the Jimmy Kimmel LA Bowl, slated to kick off the college football postseason at SoFi Stadium on Saturday, December 17, 2022. To learn more about all 46 educators and the great work they are doing in our community, please visit LosAngeles2023.com.

About the Los Angeles College Football Playoff National Championship Host Committee

The Los Angeles College Football Playoff National Championship Host Committee has been established to deliver a premier CFP National Championship experience and drive lasting social, cultural, and economic benefits for the entire Los Angeles region. We serve as the liaison between the College Football Playoff and Los Angeles to harness the opportunities surrounding the CFP National Championship. The Host Committee is led by the Los Angeles Sports & Entertainment Commission (LASEC) and Chairman James Rishwain, with SoFi Stadium and Hollywood Park and the Los Angeles Rams included.

About the College Football Playoff Foundation

The College Football Playoff Foundation (@CFPEXtraYard) is the 501(c)3 non-profit organization serving as the community engagement arm of the College Football Playoff (@CFBPlayoff) and works in partnership with institutions of higher education, sports organizations, corporations, and non-profits to support educators and improve U.S. student outcomes. The purpose of the CFP Foundation lies in supporting PK-12 education across the country. The CFP Foundation’s primary platform, Extra Yard for Teachers, is dedicated to elevating the teaching profession by inspiring and empowering teachers in four core areas: resources, recognition, professional development, recruitment, and retention.

About the LA84 Foundation

The LA84 Foundation is a national leader in support of youth sport and public education about the role of sports in positive youth development. For more than 35 years, the LA84 Foundation has supported thousands of youth-serving organizations in Southern California through grant making, funding facilities and fields of play, training coaches, and commissioning research. The LA84 Foundation takes on critical issues as a national thought leader by elevating youth sports and play as an integral to lifelong well-being. To learn more, visit www.la84.org and @LA84Foundation on Twitter and Instagram.

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