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News Release

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LAUSD ROOKIE OF YEAR TEACHERS TO BE HONORED AT DODGERS GAME

LOS ANGELES – Eighteen teachers from the Los Angeles Unified School District have been named Rookies of the Year for the 2015-16 school year.

"Congratulations to the next class of ROY teachers. We believe that your enthusiasm and dedication as a new teacher in our District will inspire students to achieve and encourage lifelong learning," said the Superintendent Michelle King. "Thank you for selecting education as a career and I am eager to work with you as we move our students in L.A. Unified forward."

On Saturday, Aug. 13, the 18 winners and their guests will attend a Dodgers baseball game from a private suite at the stadium, provided by Security Benefit, a retirement specialist company serving teachers and educators. Superintendent King will join them, and also throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

The District's Rookies of the Year represent 10 elementary schools, three middle schools, four high schools and one primary center. The Rookies of the Year are:

Veronica Cuellar, special education, 153rd Elementary School
Tarah Davis, art, San Fernando High School
Jacob Dickerman, chemistry/science, Valley Alternative Magnet School
Jonathan Frechette, English, RFK School Visual Arts/Humanities
Juan Carlos Garcia-Hernandez, special education, Vista Del Valle Dual Language Academy
Ariana Guizar, kindergarten, Holmes Elementary School
Olivia Hackett, special education, Beckford Charter for Enriched Studies
Dr. LaTeira Haynes, science/biology, Dymally High School
Amberlin Hulse, special education, Alta Loma Elementary School
Charmaine Jackson, English, Paul Revere Charter Middle School
Victor Menjivar, special education, Sylvan Park Elementary School
Erick Quintanilla, music, Hollenbeck Middle School
Marcela Ruelas, pre-kindergarten, Stanford Primary Center
Gabriel Serrano, special education, Emelita Academy Charter
Tyler Sherman, health, West Adams Preparatory High School
Hae Na Shin, special education, Normandie Elementary School
Jamecelle Ventura, special education, 118th Street Elementary School
Megan Walsh, second grade, Kenter Canyon Elementary School

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During the 2016-17 school year, the District employed more than 800 first-year teachers. Of those, their school site principal nominated 76 overall. Rookie of the Year honors were based on key characteristics, including effectiveness in preparing and delivering instruction; providing a positive classroom climate with strong routines and procedures; adopting a dynamic and engaging teaching style; and showing high levels of professionalism.

The California Credit Union, which was originally formed to offer educators financial services, created the Rookie of the Year program in conjunction with Security Benefit to recognize educators within the greater Los Angeles community. "These teachers exemplify excellence in what they do," said Ron McDaniel, CEO of California Credit Union. "Our credit union was built on serving educators and we are proud to support a program that encourages and inspires excellent new teachers who are passionate about teaching the children of Los Angeles."

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Editor's Note: A select number of press passes are available to accredited press. The pass provides limited access to the field for interviews and photo opportunities with the Rookies of the Year and program sponsors prior to the first pitch. The pass does not include tickets to the game. To apply for a press pass, contact the Dodgers' Public Relations department at 323-224-1301.