



SUMMER MATTERS

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**EL MONTE SUPERINTENDENT TO BE HONORED WITH SUPERHERO
AWARD FOR MAKING SUMMER PROGRAMS ACCESSIBLE TO 2,300
STUDENTS AND KEEPING LIBRARIES OPEN YEAR ROUND**

The superintendent has dedicated countless hours, energy and effort for children across the state.

El Monte, CA – Lillian Maldonado French, superintendent for the Mountain View School District in El Monte, will be honored with the *Summer Matters Superhero Award* by the Summer Matters campaign and State Superintendent Tom Torlakson at the California School Boards' Association Annual Education Conference this **Thursday, December 3, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. at the Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina (Torrey Pines Room) located at 333 West Harbor Drive, San Diego, California.**

The superintendent is being recognized for her commitment to summer learning, including expanding the Mountain View School District's program to serve 2,300 students last summer and keeping libraries open beyond the summer months through the use of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and state summer grants. Maldonado French has also been an enthusiastic spokesperson for summer learning across California. She is featured on a new Summer Matters [video](#) that illustrates how and why districts are investing in summer learning programs. "It's not enough to have a great instructional program. It's not enough to do a great job nine months out of the year," said Maldonado French. "You really have to think about how to make sure that students have incredible, rich, fun, explorative opportunities during the summer as well," she added.

According to the Summer Matters campaign, a statewide campaign aimed at expanding summer learning opportunities for youth, Superintendent Maldonado French has creatively built her district's summer learning system over the course of many years. "We are honoring Ms. Maldonado French because her reach goes well beyond her district and students," said Katie Brackenridge, Senior Director Expanded Learning Time Initiatives at the Partnership for Children & Youth (PCY.) "Superintendent French has embraced every opportunity to showcase the great work carried out in her district with the goal of helping other school leaders understand the importance of summer learning. Her mantra "*Every summer, one more thing*" has been adopted by district leaders and inspired them to find ways to build their own summer learning programs," added Brackenridge.

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Summer Matters is a statewide campaign – co-chaired by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and Jennifer Peck, Executive Director of PCY – that expands access to high quality summer learning opportunities for all students in California, and raises awareness about the devastating effects of summer learning loss and the beneficial impact of summer learning programs. Through the use of Local Control Funding, school districts are in a unique position to create and/ or increase learning opportunities and supports for students that are enriching, skill building and fun – unlike traditional remediation and credit recovery programs.

“When I hear summer school, I think of deficit. It’s kind of a deficit model...or the punishment for students who didn’t do well. It’s mandatory, kids have to be there, they don’t have a lot of fun, and they know that it’s something they have to get through. So, that’s not a very conducive environment to learning and growing. The difference between what we do that we refer to as summer learning, is really a growth model – a value that adds to the great learning that teachers focus on during the school year. What we find is that summer learning adds to the regular year, and not only for our students, but even for our teachers,” added Maldonado French.

You can view the new Summer Matters video *Summer Learning: An Inspiring Alternative to Summer School* at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SEXU6umFtU&feature=youtu.be>.

For more information about Summer Matters, and/ or interviews, please contact Evelyn G. Alemán at (818) 881-7976 (office) or via e-mail at evelyn@mipr.net.

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Summer Matters is a statewide campaign that expands access to high quality summer learning opportunities for all students in California, and raises awareness about the devastating effects of summer learning loss and the beneficial impact of summer learning programs.

The campaign, which is co-chaired by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and Jennifer Peck, Executive Director of Partnership for Children and Youth (PCY), is comprised of a diverse statewide coalition of educators, policymakers, advocates, school district leaders, parents and others who work collaboratively to promote summer learning in California.

Summer Matter’s work is showcased in 12 summer learning communities including: Concord, Gilroy, Glenn County, Fresno, Los Angeles, Oakland, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Ana and Whittier. Three of these summer learning programs are STEM education-focused.

The Partnership for Children & Youth is a California-based non-profit that supports communities, schools and government agencies to work together as unified systems to ensure all children have the learning, health and social supports they need to succeed in school and life.