



**Special
Olympics**
Southern California

**Unified
Champion
Schools®**

NEWSLETTER



JAN'23



HAPPY
NEW
YEAR



2023

Team Updates



The Schools Team celebrated the holidays with some team building activities, including a photo with Santa! We wish everyone a happy and healthy new year and can't wait to see what you accomplish in 2023!

Check out what's been happening!



DEC
23
2022

CONGRATULATIONS
TRABUCO MESA ELEMENTARY



Trabuco Mesa Elementary held a ceremony to celebrate their achievement of National Banner Recognition which included student speakers, district representatives, and an unveiling of their new banner!

**Have a memorable story you want featured?
Contact Max Jensen at mjensen@sosc.org**

Calendar

JAN
24
2023

Unified Basketball Tournament

Hosted by Montgomery High School
Sweetwater Union High School District

JAN
30
2023

New 2023 Spread the Word Kit Launch

"Going All In(clusive)"

REMINDER

Last day to use your UCS
Store gift card for 2022
Inclusion Revolution
products!

FEB
01
2023

Want your event added to the calendar?
Click this [link](#) to fill out a form!

Liaison Spotlight

Christine Spino



**Columbus/Downey
Adult School
Downey Unified
School District**

Christine "wears many hats" and is devoted to spreading inclusion in her community! She was a teacher at Warren HS for 15 years before taking on her role with Columbus/Downey Adult School, which includes working with her local Parks & Recreation department to create more programs and job opportunities for adults with disabilities. Christine is a current mentor for SOSC's US Youth Ambassadors and also serves on the SOSC Board of Directors!

Her favorite memory from 2022 is when SONA Ambassadors went to Utah for a Youth Summit!

To those that may be new to Unified Champion Schools, Christine says to come experience an event and the energy for yourself, it's magical to see the bonds and friendships that form through Special Olympics.

In her free time, Christine loves watching The Godfather and Ozark!

Liaison Spotlight

Kara Johnson



**District Liaison
Saddleback Valley
Unified School District
Trabuco Hills High
School**

Kara started working with Special Olympics in 2015, when Trabuco Hills High School began their journey as the first school in Orange County to become a Unified Champion School!

Kara not only serves on the SOSC Board of Directors, but she also hosts the CIF Southern Section Unified Track & Field Championships.

Some of Kara's favorite memories from 2022 are taking a high school team to USA games and going to UCS national conferences.

Her advice for someone who is learning about and new to Unified Champion School is to not be afraid of the work or the unknown, it can be fearful to take something new on to an already busy plate, but it will change your life! Embrace others and look for support in your community!

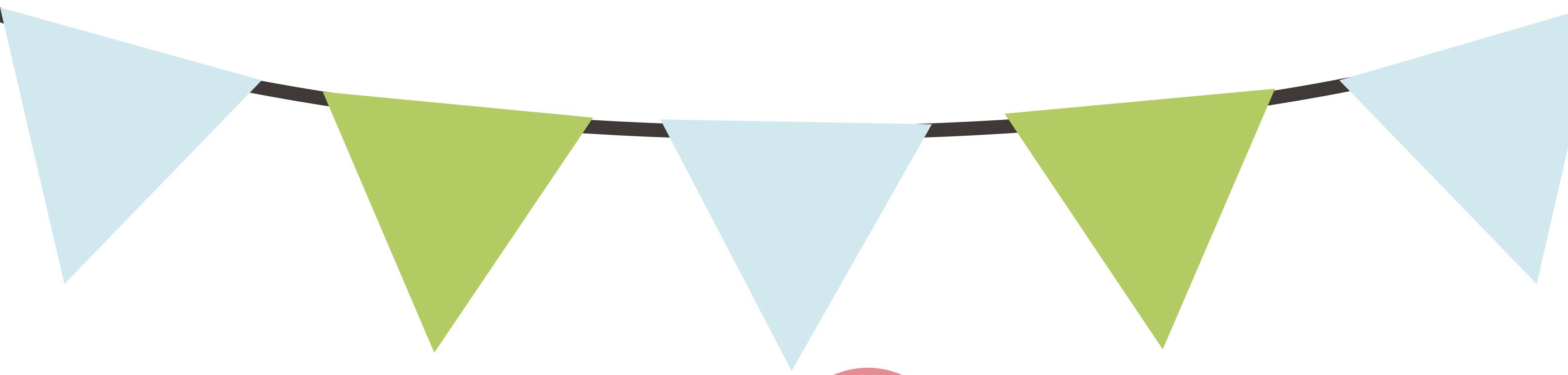
In her free time, Kara loves spending time with her family and watching some of her favorite TV shows, Yellowstone and Stranger Things!

Resources



Did you know about Unified Classroom?
Click [here](#) to access and find all of the
resources we have to offer!

Welcome our NEW Unified Champion Schools!



- Columbus/Downey Adult School
- Lafayette Elementary School
- March Mountain High School
- Virginia Peterson Elementary School
- Pacifica High School
- Estancia High School
- Jefferson Elementary School
- Rowan Elementary School
- Roosevelt Middle School
- San Diego High School

- **Los Amigos High School**
- **Santiago High School**
- **Perris High School**
- **Paloma Valley High School**
- **Woodbury Elementary School**
- **Paramount High School**
- **Anacapa Adult Transition School**
- **Del Cerro Elementary School**
- **Pendleton Elementary School**
- **Maple Elementary School**



View our Unified Champion Schools map



Meet the SoCal Schools Team!



**MELISSA
ERDMANN**



**Assistant
Vice President &
Interim Manager for
Orange County**

**CHASEN
EDDOW**



**Director,
San Luis Obispo,
Santa Barbara, &
Ventura Counties**

**CHRISSY
AULICINO**



**Manager,
Los Angeles County**

**BLAKE
ENGLISH**



**Senior Manager,
Riverside and San
Bernardino Counties**

**ANALYSSE
SMITH**



**Manager,
San Diego and
Imperial Counties**

**KELLIE
PETERSON**



**Manager,
Kern & Inyo
Counties**

**HANAH
THOMAS**



**Associate Manager,
San Bernardino
County**

**MAX
JENSEN**



Administrator