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Award-Winning Educators Prove That Belief in Students Changes Everything

San Diego, CA — December 11, 2025 — In classrooms across the country, belief is a quiet force. It shows up in the way a teacher encourages a student to speak up, a counselor helps a young person see college as possible, or a principal builds a school culture where every learner feels seen. At AVID's first-ever Global Achievement Awards ceremony, held during AVID National Conference in San Diego, that belief took center stage.

In celebration of its 45th anniversary, AVID created the Global Achievement Awards to honor educators and leaders who not only advance the AVID College and Career Readiness System but also live its mission every day. These are the champions who turn high expectations into real-world outcomes, who make rigorous instruction accessible, and who offer unwavering support to students navigating their futures.

Each award winner has a story. And each story is a reminder that AVID's legacy, more than 10 million students strong, has always been built by people who believe in students and act on that belief.

Meet the 2025 AVID Global Achievement Award Winners

District Leader of the Year: Jodie M. Kuleck, Alexandria City Public Schools, VA
Jodie M. Kuleck has spent over 15 years growing AVID across Alexandria City Public Schools, leading with excellence and a deep belief in what's possible for every student. Her leadership has shaped AVID Elementary, AVID Secondary, and AVID Excel®

programming, and her impact reaches far beyond her district through her national contributions as an AVID Staff Developer, writer, and ambassador.

AVID Staff Developer of the Year: Robin Ilac, El Camino Jr. High, CA
Robin Ilac returned to her alma mater as an Instructional Coach, bringing over 25 years of experience and a heart for her community. Her journey from student to teacher to mentor embodies AVID's mission in action, cultivating educators and building strong student relationships that last a lifetime.

Elementary Teacher of the Year: Matthew Rodney, Ronald Reagan Elementary School, WI
Once an AVID student, Matthew Rodney now leads inclusive classrooms as an AVID Site Coordinator andTeacher. His lived experience fuels his work, connecting AVID strategies with the arts and empowering students to see their unique paths as powerful and valid.

Secondary Teacher of the Year: Crystal Medina, Atascocita Middle School, TX
Crystal Medina brings 19 years of experience and a passion for student agency to her role as AVID Site Coordinator and AVID Elective Teacher. She builds confidence and college readiness by encouraging students to challenge themselves and take ownership of their learning.

Counselor of the Year: Sarah Elmore, Madison East High School, WI
Sarah Elmore blends global perspective with deep care in her role as AVID School Counselor. Her background in teaching and counseling allows her to support students holistically, building relationships that help them thrive academically and personally.

Elementary Principal of the Year: Kimberly Hutcherson, Center for Achievement Personalized Learning AVID Magnet, SC
Kimberly Hutcherson leads with vision and heart at her nationally certified AVID magnet school. Her work has transformed student outcomes and inspired future educators through her service as an adjunct professor and community leader.

Secondary Principal of the Year: Renee Kory, Kyrene Aprende Middle School, AZ
Renee Kory's leadership has earned her school national recognition as an AVID Site of Distinction and AVID National Demonstration School. She champions innovative, student-centered practices and mentors aspiring principals, modeling AVID's commitment to excellence and opportunity.

AVID Site Team of the Year: Fontana High School, CA
The AVID Site Team at Fontana High School is a living example of community and

continuity. Former AVID students now serve as tutors and teachers, creating a culture of belief and readiness that reflects AVID's mission to uplift and empower.

"As we celebrate 45 years of AVID, these inaugural Global Achievement Award winners remind us that our legacy is built by educators who believe in students and act on that belief every day," Dr. Thuan Nguyen, AVID CEO, shares. "Their work exemplifies the heart of our mission: creating opportunity, fostering excellence, and transforming lives."

For more information about the AVID Global Achievement Awards and to learn more about this year's honorees, visit the AVID Global Achievement Awards web page.

About AVID

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a national nonprofit that has been closing the opportunity gap in education for more than 45 years. Through evidence-based professional learning and schoolwide systems, AVID empowers educators to prepare all students for college, career, and life. Since its founding, 3.65 million students have been enrolled in the AVID Elective and AVID Elementary. An additional 7.08 million students have been impacted by AVID-trained educators across subject areas. AVID is implemented in more than 7,400 K–12 schools across the United States, plus schools in Washington, D.C., the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), the U.S. Virgin Islands, Canada, and Australia, impacting millions of students annually.

Learn more at www.avid.org.