



June 2020

During these uncertain times we can all use some Shining Stars in our lives. AchieveKids has many of these and is proud to present our next edition of

AchieveKids Shining Stars

These are people that have shown compassion and empathy for others during this health crisis and sheltering in place. Individuals that are rising above the fold, advocating for our families, and showing extreme passion for the work that we do and always wanting to do more. Taking the initiative to reach out and connect and helping to ease the feeling of isolation is critical right now.

Julie Ngov, Human Resources Director

Julie Ngov, our Human Resources Director, has an impeccable work ethic. Her commitment to AchieveKids, intelligence and perspective, good humor and grace are unparalleled.

Since our school closure Julie has truly gone above and beyond, all while working from home with two small children and a husband also working from home. She has been known to work well into the evening hours to make sure all of our policies and procedures are up to date.



Julie is one of the leaders of our return to work committee that has organized all aspects of bringing staff and students back on campus. She has attended countless trainings and webinars on how we can reopen and what the relevant laws and regulations are to do that. She purchased and set up a school communication application which is beneficial for parents during this time of remote learning.

Julie built a new internal website for our staff that has all the relevant policies and procedures related to COVID-19 including links to training videos, health surveys and critical return to work information. This was a huge task and Julie did all of this while also doing all the normal duties of an HR Director. We are grateful to have Julie on our team. She is a rock star and a true example of a Shining Star.



Perla Rodriguez, Teacher in Palo Alto



Perla Rodriguez teaches our Independence Classroom in Palo Alto. Her students are always her top priority. Since we have been on school closure she was one of the fastest teachers to start remote learning and the most consistent and routine.

Her students have virtually traveled across the world visiting different countries and famous monuments. They are learning to ask critical questions with support and how to do research. Her students are practicing daily living skills and have done a virtual pastry cooking class targeting math and following directions.

Perla is working on creating an accessible website for her students and parents that they can use any time of day. Her overall goal is to improve the quality of how education is

delivered.

When she has free time Perla is planning on teaching her staff about Special Education Law so they can be better equipped to advocate for our students if needed. Perla is indeed a Shining Star at AchieveKids. Her dedication and willingness to always go above and beyond is greatly appreciated by all.



Back to Campus!

After extensive planning and preparation, on Thursday, June 18th AchieveKids welcomed 10 students back on each of our campuses. Our next target date is the week of July 6th, when we plan to at least double this number, bringing each campus to 20 students, if not more, on our school grounds.

I cannot stress enough how proud I am of our teams adjusting to remote instruction and continuing to offer support to our students and families, but it goes without saying that it is not the same, and is a design that significantly risks great learning loss, even with our team's best efforts.

Our first day was one full of smiles and excitement. We saw students and staff wearing masks, washing hands to music, and following our new entrance and exit guidelines, in addition to their learning activities, and social engagement. I want to extend my appreciation for our team that has put countless hours in for the planning of this pilot to be in line with County guidelines, and to meet our student's needs, as well as those AchieveKids professionals that volunteered to be part of our pilot group. Implementation of this pilot enables us to better support students now, but it also prepares us for the fall so we can be more agile during uncertain times, and can have more effective on-campus support while having a structure that helps keep people healthy.

Together We Can Achieve!

Ryan C. Eisenberg

Executive Director

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