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2022 Arthur S. Marmaduke High School Counselor Award Winner Announced

“This year, we proudly recognize Norma Murillo for her exemplary commitment to supporting students with their financial aid journeys”

SACRAMENTO, Calif., May 24, 2022 – A high school counselor from Orange Cove, CA, Mrs. Norma Murillo, has been selected as the winner of the 2021-22 Arthur S. Marmaduke High School Counselor Award for outstanding achievements in high school counseling.

“One of the most important and inspiring recognitions the California Student Aid Commission offers each year is the Marmaduke Counselor of the Year award. This year, we proudly recognize Norma Murillo for her exemplary commitment to supporting students prepare for college and applying for financial aid,” said Marlene Garcia, Executive Director of the California Student Aid Commission, “Norma Murillo goes the extra mile in helping students realize their college dreams, especially first-generation college, and low-income students. In the process she involves parents and the community to share in this journey in support of student success.”

As a first-generation college student herself, Norma Murillo, is a passionate counselor committed to helping students achieve their full potential. Murillo is from Dinuba, a small rural community in the San Joaquin Valley. She earned both her undergraduate degree in Business Administration and master’s degree in counseling from Fresno State University. She is currently the lead counselor at Orange Cove High School and has served as a high school counselor for over ten years.

Murillo’s efforts have made major impact for students and Orange Cove High School, which has seen its financial aid application rates climb to 90% over the past few years due to her efforts. This year alone, Murillo was assigned 350 students, providing individual support to help students navigate the college application and financial aid process. Collaborating with teachers, administrators, other counselors, and student transition teams, Murillo hosts a variety of college preparation events that highlight the importance of financial aid. During these events, she provides important timelines, shares college resources, and provides step-by-step guidance to filling out financial aid forms. For example, Murillo holds a “Parent Academy” in which she covers everything from high school graduation to college

enrollment and financial aid. This curriculum is specifically for low-income, first-generation families.

"Much of why I love working with students at Orange Cove High School is because I see myself in many of them," said award winner Norma Murillo, "as graduation approaches, I think back on how much students have grown from their freshman year... it is a great feeling to know that one has been part of their journey."

"On behalf of the team at ECMC Foundation, I am thrilled to congratulate Norma Murillo on her outstanding and inspiring commitment to her students at Orange Cove High School," said Rosario Torres, Program Officer, Career Readiness, ECMC Foundation. "As a first-generation college student, myself, I recognize the one-on-one commitment that Norma demonstrates to each student and makes all the difference in opening up a brighter future, not just for her students, but also uplifting their families and the Fresno community. "

Murillo was honored at a virtual ceremony with school district leaders, family members, friends, students, and community leaders earlier today. The presentation of Murillo's award included a California Legislative resolution, a commemorative plaque, and a cash prize sponsored by ECMC Foundation.

Marmaduke Award nominations are solicited annually by the California Student Aid Commission and is named after one of the longest running executive directors of the Commission, Arthur S. Marmaduke. Mr. Marmaduke served the Commission for 25 years from 1960 to 1985 and the award was established in 1985 to carry on his legacy of making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians.

For more information on the Arthur S. Marmaduke High School Counselor Award, please visit <https://www.csac.ca.gov/arthur-s-marmaduke-high-school-counselor-award>.

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The California Student Aid Commission administers the state's \$3.5 billion portfolio of student financial aid programs and services, including the Cal Grant, the Middle Class Scholarship, and the California Dream Act Application. The Commission serves as a resource for policymakers and the public on college affordability and financing issues, and advocates for policy changes to eliminate cost as a barrier to any qualified California student pursuing a higher education. Visit our website at <https://www.csac.ca.gov/> or follow us on Social Media by clicking on our Link Tree, <https://linktr.ee/castudentaid> .