

# **TeWinkle Middle School named a 2017 California Gold Ribbon School**

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson recently announced that 275 middle schools and high schools are being honored under the Gold Ribbon Schools Awards Program.

Schools applied for the award based on a model program or practice their school has adopted that includes standards-based activities, projects, strategies, and practices that can be replicated by other local educational agencies. The award acknowledged elementary schools last year.

“These terrific schools are leading the way in embracing our new rigorous academic standards and showing others how to help students succeed on their way to 21st century careers and college,” Torlakson said. “I look forward to traveling the state to honor these schools and to help share the programs, methods, and techniques that are working.”

The Gold Ribbon Awards recognize California schools that have made gains in implementing the academic content and performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education. These include the California Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics, California English Language Development Standards, and Next Generation Science Standards.

The 2017 Gold Ribbon Schools as well as the 2017 Exemplary Program recipients, Title I Academic Achieving Award Schools, 2017 Green Ribbon Schools, 2017 Civic Learning Award Schools, and the National Blue Ribbon Schools from 2016, will be honored in May during regional ceremonies held in Costa Mesa, Santa Clara, Los Angeles, Visalia, and Sacramento.

Click [here](#) to read the California Department of Education full News Release.

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## **TeWinkle Middle School Teacher Receives Second Fulbright Award**

Brian Ristow, TeWinkle Middle School Special Education Teacher and former Teacher of the Year, was awarded the Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching from the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Ristow is one of approximately 45 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad through the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program in 2016-2017. He will live and work in New Zealand to learn about the culture, society and educational system of New Zealand and share insights about the United States with colleagues at his host school. Ristow previously received Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund for Teachers Award.

“Brian is an outstanding educator and brings amazing qualities to the classroom,” said TeWinkle Middle School Principal Kira Hurst. “I am very happy for this opportunity for Brian to learn about New Zealand’s education system and hopefully bring back exciting and new ideas to TeWinkle.”

The purpose of the Fulbright Program is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those in other countries. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential.

Fulbright recipients are among more than 50,000 individuals participating in U.S. Department of State exchange programs each year. The Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program is administered by the Institute of International Education. To learn more about the program [click here](#).

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## **Estancia and TeWinkle Foundation is music to marching band's ears**

Four years ago, the band at Estancia High School was in bad shape.

The musical group had dwindled to a mere six students, the program was run by a temporary teacher and there had been quite a bit of staff turnover over the years.

Then, the Estancia TeWinkle Schools Foundation and Band and Music teacher Stacy Neacsto came marching in and things began to change.

“The Foundation helped us to provide instruments and uniforms as we were retooling the band,” said former Principal Kirk Bauermeister, now a district administrator. “There was no booster club to fund raise and we needed to give these students and teacher hope for the future.”



Bauermeister said they asked Neacsto and the kids to dream of what the band's potential could be and then put together a three-year plan for its future.

With the financial help of the Foundation, those dreams became reality.

"The Foundation has always enabled us to dream," Bauermeister said. "One of the biggest hurdles is money and community support. The Foundation has always been able to provide both. So, if we could dream it and put together a solid plan, we then had a vehicle that could move that dream to a reality."

The Foundation gives both Estancia and TeWinkle a combined \$50,000 on average each year and additional funding for programs like the band get highlighted at the Foundation's annual gala, which this year will take place this Saturday March 19 from 6 to 11 p.m. [Click here](#) for more information about this year's New York-themed gala, which will be held at the Avenue of the Arts Hotel (formerly Wyndham).

"Our fund-a-need raised at the gala has allowed us to give \$7,750 to TeWinkle and \$15,000 to Estancia which is in

addition to the \$50,000 we give on average every year between the two schools,” said Foundation Board Member Hydee Beth.

Thanks to Foundation funding, the band has grown so big that it now fills two classrooms. And that’s not all.

At Estancia High School, foundation grants have fully funded the Apprentice Program – a new comprehensive support system for incoming freshmen and provided support for the school’s Puente program for high- achieving Hispanic students.

Foundation grants have funded the purchase of ancillary materials for mathematics, books for literature circles, smart boards, computer labs and cutting edge technology for classroom use, among other things.

At TeWinkle, foundation grants have provided up-to-date technology in nearly every classroom, including smart boards and LCD projectors. Foundation grants have also met the school’s need for extensive Social Study reference materials available for student use in the library.

Formed in 2003, the Estancia and TeWinkle Schools Foundation was made possible through a \$1 million donation from C. J. Segerstrom & Sons. For more information go to [ETSFoundation.org](http://ETSFoundation.org) or call 949-515-6500.