



ABC Unified School District **Education Foundation**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ABC Education Foundation Board Members Recognized as Women of the Year

March 28, 2022, Cerritos, CA—Assemblymember Cristina Garcia has recognized two members of the ABC Education Foundation Board of Directors as Women of the Year for the 58th Assembly District.

The ABC Education Foundation would like to congratulate and celebrate the Honorable Laura Walton and Sasha Leonardo, who were selected as Women of the Year.

The Honorable Laura Walton, a judge on the Los Angeles Superior Court, was named the 2022 District Woman of the Year for her community involvement. A Cerritos resident, she has been very involved in supporting the ABC Unified School District. She has been a PTA president, school site council member, and co-chaired the district's ad-hoc facilities committee. She sits on the ABC Education Foundation board of directors and is a member of the ABCUSD Board of Education's Diversity, Unity, and Equity Committee.

Sasha Leonardo was named the 2022 District Woman of the Year for the City of Artesia. She has worked in education for over 16 years, serving students at school sites and now as the Career Technical Education Coordinator. Sasha is active in the community, serving as the Executive Director

for the ABC Education Foundation and as a board member for the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce.

“We are so very proud of Judge Walton and Mrs. Leonardo,” said ABC Education Foundation Chair Joseph Porter III. “They truly epitomize service leadership by giving so much back to the community. On behalf of the ABC Education Foundation, we congratulate them both on this deserving recognition.”

Each year, the California Legislature recognizes women from across the state for their contributions to their communities. This year, 120 women are being recognized as Woman of the Year. This recognition, sponsored and organized by the California Legislative Women’s Caucus, is celebrated each March during Women’s History Month.

About the ABC Education Foundation

The ABC Education Foundation was founded in 2011 to support all ABCUSD schools with funding for programs in education where State funding falls short. Since inception, the Foundation has funded over \$450,000 in total programs. The annual mini-grant program (started in 2013) makes up \$262,500 of the total dollars funded. The Foundation also provides backpacks for financially disadvantaged students each school year full of school supplies and has distributed over 7,000 backpacks in ABCUSD. Most recently the backpack drive evolved into a program called SEED (School Essentials for Education Drive) where teachers, administrators, and mental health professionals in ABCUSD can make individual requests for a student with financial need or their classroom’s social-emotional needs from the Foundation. The Foundation also helped secure \$3.5 million in additional grants for the district. Learn more about the ABC Education Foundation at abcedfoundation.org.

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