

# Outstanding Educator Award from Kiwanis Club of Redlands Scholarship Foundation goes to Lori Rhodes

Redlands Daily Facts

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The Kiwanis Club of Redlands Scholarship Foundation presented its annual Outstanding Educator Award to Lori Rhodes at the foundation's scholarship luncheon held June 4 at the Redlands Country Club.

The award was a surprise for Rhodes, who was then only a few days away from retiring as superintendent of the Redlands Unified School District.

She was guest speaker at the luncheon, which raised money for the scholarship foundation through tickets and a silent auction.

In her talk, Rhodes highlighted the impact made by organizations that award scholarships such as the Kiwanis Club of Redlands Scholarship Foundation.

She said that when she came to the Redlands Unified School District in 2007, after 15 years in the Fontana school district, 48 percent of the district's students were from families of low socioeconomic status or were English learners or were in the foster system. She said those groups are now 58 percent of the district's 21,000 students.

Rhodes shared the story of a student in the foster system who is active in extracurricular activities and taking academically rigorous courses while maintaining a high grade-point average. Several times during each school year he is homeless and he is identified as among the 450 students most at risk of dropping out, Rhodes said.

Such students rely on help from the community to attend college, she said.

"He doesn't have any financial support, except what the courts give him," she said.

"For all the glaring gaps in his family support system, he is incredibly, incredibly optimistic about his future. So the work that you do in terms of raising scholarship money is an important part of our support system," Rhodes said.

She said that in the 2016-17 school year, the Kiwanis Club of Redlands Scholarship Foundation awarded \$64,000 to 17 students in the Redlands Unified School District.

“That is for many of these students the make-or-break action that lets them see, as a senior, that college is possible,” Rhodes said.

Also speaking at the luncheon was Tyler Chung, who received the Kiwanis Club of Redlands Scholarship Foundation’s Academic Excellence Scholarship when he graduated from Redlands East Valley High School in 2013.

Chung, who graduated this year from UC Berkeley with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science, plans to continue his education with a degree in dental medicine or dental surgery.

At the luncheon, the group also presented awards for service to the scholarship foundation. Jerry Fields received the Urban Derkum Presidential Award, Doug Kinzle received the Helen Ludwig Service Award and Tiffany Jiles of Ayres Hotels received the Supporting Business Award.

Ed Yarnelle of the Redlands Opera Theatre played piano during the social hour.

Bill Bryden, president of the scholarship foundation, introduced luncheon committee members Bruce Crandell, Tom Clark, Pamela Clark, Carol Meulenkamp, Steve Roberts, Alison Roedl and Terrill Wickham.

To contribute to the Kiwanis Club of Redlands Scholarship Foundation, contact Bryden at [Redlands.Kiwanis.Foundation@gmail.com](mailto:Redlands.Kiwanis.Foundation@gmail.com).