



Flex-Based Public Charter School Teacher Recognized for Outstanding Contribution to Literacy

Sacramento, December 19, 2023 -- the Association of Personalized Schools and Services (APLUS+) is thrilled to announce that Chantel Touryan-Schaefer, the Early Literacy Coordinator for [Ocean Grove, South Sutter, and Sky Mountain Charter Schools](#), was recently recognized for her outstanding contribution to literacy.

Chantel was one of four teachers recognized this year by the [American Literacy Corporation](#) for making a significant difference in the literacy skills of their students. Chantel was instrumental in establishing an early identification and intervention program at Ocean Grove, South Sutter, and Sky Mountain Charter Schools, which are part of the [APLUS+ Network](#), to identify and screen students for dyslexia. The program involved training teachers in the Orton-Gillingham method and ensuring students received the reading, writing, and spelling support they needed to succeed.

“We are thrilled not only that Chantel was recognized for leading the way in providing literacy intervention and support but that she was the first award recipient from a Flex-Based Personalized Learning Public Charter School,” said Jeff Rice, Director/Founder of APLUS+. “Many people don’t realize that students who enroll in flex-based public charter schools that offer comprehensive and tailored education delivery options through independent study have access to fantastic support programs and teachers like Chantel.”

Chantel was a first-grade classroom teacher for 14 years before following her passion for reading instruction to become a Reading Specialist. She spends summers as a member of the Chartwell Teacher Institute team at Chartwell school, training classroom teachers in dyslexia and structured literacy. In addition, Chantel is a Certified Dyslexia Advocate in California and is working on her certification to become a Certified Academic Language Therapist. In addition, she presented at the APLUS+ conference on dyslexia in the home classroom.

At Ocean Grove, South Sutter, and Sky Mountain Charter Schools, which are managed by [Innovative Education Management](#), parents work with a credentialed teacher to develop individualized learning opportunities by choosing home-based or community-based instruction, selecting individualized curriculum based on learning style and functioning grade level, utilizing provided materials, resources and supportive instruction, all while promoting real-life context-based learning.

About APLUS+

APLUS+ was founded in 2002 and today represents 93 Personalized Learning Public Charter Schools collectively serving more than 90,000 K-12 students in 56 counties throughout California. APLUS+ member schools employ more than 2,500 credentialed teachers who provide student centered education delivered through multiple learning settings.

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