

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## TUOLUMNE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION HONORS LONGTIME TRUSTEE JULIANA FERIANI UPON HER RETIREMENT

### **Longstanding Trustee Recognized for Decades of Service and Presented with Rose R. Morgan Women in Leadership Award**

**December 16, 2024 — Sonora, California**

After more than two decades of distinguished service, the Tuolumne County Board of Education celebrates the retirement of Trustee Juliana Feriani, who served as the Area Three representative since 1999. Her leadership, dedication, and commitment to high-quality education have made a significant impact on students, educators, and families throughout Tuolumne County.

For 25 years, Trustee Feriani represented the Summerville Union High School District, the Summerville Elementary School District, and a portion of the Soulsbyville School District as the Area Three Trustee. Guided by the mission of the Tuolumne County Board of Education—*to provide a leadership role in education; to support the County Office of Education in its governance; and to advocate, celebrate, and champion for the education of all students*—her tenure was marked by meaningful policy development, hands-on community involvement, and a steadfast commitment to ensuring that every student had access to a supportive and enriching educational environment.

### **Deep Commitment to Education and Community**

Locally, Ms. Feriani's service included active participation in the TWIST women's service organization and involvement on district-level committees—ranging from Budget, Principal and Superintendent Search, and Bond Oversight to Building Committees. She contributed to the Awareness of Human Trafficking in Tuolumne County Committee, and within the Tuolumne County Board of Education, she held roles as President and Board Clerk. She lent her expertise to Bylaws/Policy, Superintendent's Salary, Scholarship, Health Care and Education, IMMUNIZE Tuolumne County, and countywide boardmanship committees, as well as the BOB van Board of Directors.

Ms. Feriani's grassroots support included serving as an officer (treasurer) for the local PTA, founding the SCRIPT program at a local elementary school, and leading both as president and treasurer for a local preschool. Through countless volunteer hours, she championed educational enrichment, working hand-in-hand with families, educators, and community leaders.

### **Statewide and National Leadership**

Ms. Feriani's advocacy extended across California. Her longstanding involvement with the California School Boards Association (CSBA) and the now-disbanded California County Boards of Education (CCBE) included participation in Annual Education Conferences, Board Presidents Training, Legislative Action Day, Masters in Governance programs, and numerous committees dedicated to strengthening educational policy and governance. From 2004 to 2023, she served continuously on the CCBE Board of

Directors, including a term as CCBE President in 2015. She contributed to the Alternative Education Task Force, various nomination and legislative committees, and the development of board member training, among other critical initiatives.

Through her efforts, Tuolumne County's perspective was represented in broader state and national discussions, ensuring that local priorities contributed to shaping best practices and policy decisions benefiting children far beyond county lines.

### **The Rose R. Morgan Women in Leadership Award**

At her final board meeting on Monday evening, Ms. Feriani was presented with the Rose R. Morgan *Women in Leadership Award*, an honor named for Rose R. Morgan—the first woman to serve as Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools (1876–1877) and a true trailblazer in public education leadership. The Morgan family's legacy of service is deeply woven into Tuolumne County's history, as Rose's brother, George P. Morgan, would go on to serve as County Superintendent of Schools for an unparalleled 55 years, from 1887 to 1942. Together, the Morgans exemplified the power of steadfast educational leadership in shaping communities and transforming the lives of young people.

In recognizing Rose R. Morgan, the award pays tribute to women who follow in her pioneering footsteps—women who lead with courage, vision, compassion, and a commitment to student success. By honoring Ms. Feriani, the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools office acknowledges her role in continuing this legacy of empowerment, community betterment, and educational excellence.

As part of the award presentation, the following tribute was read:

"This evening, we have the honor of presenting the Rose R. Morgan Women in Leadership Award to a remarkable individual whose service exemplifies the enduring legacy of educational leadership in Tuolumne County. In honoring Rose R. Morgan—a courageous and pioneering figure who forged new paths in an era when women's leadership in public education was far less recognized—we also honor all women who lead with vision, compassion, and determination. Tonight's recipient, Juliana Feriani, embodies these qualities. Through her service, she has demonstrated unwavering commitment to our students, thoughtful governance, and the drive to inspire future generations. By presenting the Rose R. Morgan Women in Leadership Award to Juliana, we recognize her as part of this proud tradition, ensuring that education remains a cornerstone of opportunity, growth, and civic responsibility in Tuolumne County."

Surrounded by her husband, father, stepmother, son, daughter, and four grandchildren, Ms. Feriani received heartfelt appreciation and well-wishes from colleagues, educators, friends, and community members who have long admired her strength, vision, and perseverance.

"Juliana Feriani's legacy is one of compassion, integrity, and tireless service," said Zack Abernathy, Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools. "She has been an unwavering advocate for our students and educators, truly embodying our mission to advocate, celebrate, and champion for the education of all. Her leadership stands as a testament to the vital role that women play in guiding and shaping the future of education. We are profoundly grateful for her contributions and wish her the very best in retirement."

### **About the Tuolumne County Board of Education**

The Tuolumne County Board of Education's mission is to provide a leadership role in education; to support the County Office of Education in its governance; and to advocate, celebrate, and champion for the education of all students. Through governance, policy development, and community engagement, the Board strives to ensure that every student in Tuolumne County receives a high-quality, equitable, and innovative education.

For more information, please visit <https://www.tcsos.us/about/board/> or contact Zack Abernathy at 209.536.2010 or [zabernathy@tcsos.us](mailto:zabernathy@tcsos.us)