

Clovis Municipal Schools



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NEWS RELEASE

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Mesa Elementary Fourth Grade Teacher Silvia Miranda Wins National, \$25,000 Milken Educator Award

Silvia Miranda was presented with the prestigious Milken Educator Award in a surprise announcement made during an impromptu assembly at Mesa Elementary School Tuesday. Presented by Milken Educator Awards Senior Vice President Dr. Jane Foley and New Mexico Education Secretary Christopher Ruzzkowski, Miranda joins an elite group of up to 40 educators across the nation to receive the award in 2018-2019.

The national recognition comes with an unrestricted \$25,000 cash prize. She is the only Milken Educator Award winner from New Mexico this year.

Of the things that made her stand out as a Milken Educator Award candidate was the fact Miranda holds herself and her students to the highest standards and insists that every student succeed. She incorporates Whole Brain strategies and a growth mindset philosophy in her classroom and encourages students to pursue their interests. An experienced bilingual educator, Miranda prepares students for the district's Spanish spelling bee. She launched a Banagrams tournament during lunch and organized the Mesa Science Fair for fourth- and fifth-graders, bringing in more than 20 judges from nearby Cannon Air Force Base and Clovis Community College. Miranda helped write Mesa's National Blue Ribbon Award application and traveled to Washington with her principal to receive the school's award.

"On behalf of Clovis Municipal Schools, I would like to congratulate Sylvia Miranda and the entire Mesa staff and students for Silvia receiving New Mexico's Milken Educator Award, said Superintendent of Clovis Municipal Schools Jody Balch. "Silvia is a very gifted teacher as evidenced by effective instructional practices and student learning results in her classroom. Silvia would be the first to recognize her fantastic students and her peers for her ongoing teaching success. This award is fantastic for our district and the community of Clovis."

"All-around, all-star educators like Silvia Miranda have a knack for bringing out the best in students and colleagues with their drive, their insight, their innovation and their heart," said Foley. "We're proud to welcome her as a Milken Educator."

"Ms. Silvia Miranda is without question, as evidenced by her students' academic growth, one of New Mexico's highest-performing teachers" said Ruzzkowski. She has demonstrated brilliance in her craft and is a testament to the transformative power of excellent teaching in our students' lives."

Milken Educators are selected in early to mid-career for what they have achieved and for the promise of what they will accomplish. In addition to the \$25,000 prize and public recognition, the honor includes membership in the National Milken Educator Network, a group of more than 2,700 top teachers, principals and specialists dedicated to strengthening education.

The Milken Educator Awards, hailed by Teacher magazine as the "Oscars of Teaching" has been opening minds and shaping futures for over 30 years. Research shows teacher quality is the driving in-school factor behind student growth and achievement. The initiative not only aims to reward great teachers, but to celebrate, elevate and activate those innovators in the classroom who are guiding America's next generation of leaders. Milken Educators believe, "The future belongs to the educated."

Miranda's biography, as well as photos and video of the award presentation assembly can be found at: <https://www.milkeneducatorawards.org/educators/view/Silvia-Miranda>

The mission of the Clovis Municipal Schools, an alliance highly committed to educational excellence, is to equip each student with the knowledge and skills needed for a productive life of creative thinking, continuous learning, and exemplary character through challenging and engaging learning experiences led by a dedicated, unified team in vital partnership with family, church, and community.