



CHAMPIONS **EDUCATE** HERE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Steve Brener, BZA, 818-462-5598

Steve Webster, CMPR, 310-426-9900

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF FOUNDATION AND LOS ANGELES COLLEGE
FOOTBALL PLAYOFF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP HOST COMMITTEE REVEAL
“CHAMPIONS EDUCATE HERE” LEGACY PROGRAMS**

*Public Service Initiatives Aim to Boost Local Educators
From the Classroom to the Playground and Beyond*

LOS ANGELES (September 13, 2022) — As the countdown continues for the 2023 College Football Playoff (CFP) National Championship, the College Football Playoff Foundation, the Los Angeles College Football Playoff National Championship Host Committee, and the LA84 Foundation today announced plans to highlight educators and provide support for teachers in school districts across the Los Angeles region leading up to the national championship game on January 9 at SoFi Stadium.

The "Champions Educate Here" legacy programs will identify and celebrate up to 46 educators—including physical education teachers, elementary and special education teachers, coaches, and after-school staff—who nurture the academic, mental health, and social-emotional needs of students through sport, play, and movement. Each selected educator will be eligible to receive up to \$20,000 to expand their efforts at their respective schools. Awards may deliver play equipment, social-emotional learning resources, uniforms, field trips, coaching education, wellness spaces, and/or infrastructure projects.

The initial recipients listed below will be publicly acknowledged Saturday, September 17, as part of an in-game recognition during USC's football game against Fresno State at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. The educators will also receive a professionally produced video to create more exposure for their programs and share techniques to inspire fellow educators. Videos will be released sequentially throughout the season, beginning in late September.

List of Educators

Martha Alba-Gonzalez—Chavez Elementary, Long Beach USD

Reginald Bellamy—Inglewood High School, Inglewood USD

Vincent Brascia—Orthopedic Medical Magnet High School, LAUSD

California Ultimate Association (*Leo Decter, Toph Eggers, Naomi Guzman, Katie Killebrew*)—IUSD

Pablo Carlos—Sun Valley Magnet School, LAUSD

Jonathan Castaneda—St. Joseph School, La Puente

Alfredo Crossman-Chavez—KIPP Corazón Academy Upper School, LAUSD

Lauren Fletcher—City Honors International Preparatory School, IUSD

Yolanda Galeazzi—Rise Kohyang High School, LAUSD

(more)



CHAMPIONS **EDUCATE** HERE

2-2-2

Daysi Garcia—PUC Excel Charter Academy, LAUSD

Henree Haitkin—Luther Burbank Middle School, LAUSD

Walter Lopez—John C. Fremont High School, LAUSD

Patrick Merrill—4th Street Primary Center, LAUSD

Jason Morgan—Dominguez High School, Compton USD

Jason Orona—KIPP Promesa Prep, LAUSD

Kevin Pearson—Warren High School, Downey USD

Joshua Perea—El Rancho High School & The STEAM Academy at Burke, El Rancho USD

Monica Rubacalva—St. Anthony of Padua School, Gardena

Felipe Valencia—Felicitas & Gonzalo Mendez High School, LAUSD

Nicholas Westfall—Alexander Hamilton High School, LAUSD

Alyssa Worbetz—Girls Athletic Leadership School Los Angeles, LAUSD

Colin Yamashita—Rise Kohyang Middle School, LAUSD

Maggie Yu-DiPasquale—LAUSD

“As the legacy of the 2023 College Football Playoff National Championship in Los Angeles, Champions Educate Here will not only provide support but also shine a bright spotlight on local educators using sport, play and movement to accelerate their students’ recovery from the pandemic and improve outcomes in the classroom,” said **Renata Simril, President & CEO of the LA84 Foundation and President of the Play Equity Fund**. “With our partners, we look forward to supporting more educators and helping create opportunities throughout the season that have a lasting impact on youth across Los Angeles County.”

Nominations remain open for the final educators who will be unveiled later this year. Educators (including coaches) must serve high-needs schools in Los Angeles County—including public schools, parochial schools, and after-school service providers affiliated with county school districts. To learn more about application requirements and to nominate an educator, please visit LosAngeles2023.com.

“The College Football Playoff National Championship is both a high-profile event and a celebration of excellence by college athletes on the field. It represents the culmination of dedicated teamwork sustained over an entire season to arrive at a history-making moment,” said **James Rishwain, Chairman, of the Los Angeles College Football Playoff National Championship Host Committee**. “More important, this epic sporting event is a reflection of the profound commitment our local educators show to our youth every day. Along with this national championship game, we are delighted to honor deeply deserving local educators for their work with our youth.”

(more)



CHAMPIONS **EDUCATE** HERE

3-3-3

In addition to recognizing the 46 educators, the College Football Playoff Foundation will work directly with Los Angeles, Pasadena, and Inglewood Unified School Districts to provide additional grants and implement its Extra Yard for Teachers initiatives—which retain outstanding teachers and recruit future educators. Activities include over 10 Extra Yard Makeover Projects to upgrade media centers in those school districts, a series of A+ Teacher appreciation lunches, DonorsChoose funding for classroom projects, and unique teacher recognitions based upon student and parent nominations. Teachers can expect to see the Los Angeles community, as well as many across the country, extending their gratitude by participating in the **Big Day for Teachers on September 20, 2022.**

“We are grateful for the collaboration with the host committee and thrilled with all of our partnerships in Southern California,” said **Britton Banowsky, Executive Director of the College Football Playoff Foundation.** “The work supporting educators extends throughout Los Angeles County and will make a difference in the lives of thousands of current and future teachers. The impact from these investments will most certainly leave a lasting legacy.”

Together with many national and local education partners, the CFP Foundation will offer professional development platforms for educators to learn from each other and bring best practices into their classrooms, while also creating opportunities for more diversity within educational leadership roles. The CFP Foundation’s annual **Extra Yard for Teachers Summit, scheduled for Saturday, January 7, 2023,** will feature sessions for current educators as well as educators of tomorrow. Details will be available at [CFP-Foundation.org](https://www.cfp-foundation.org).

The collective efforts from the College Football Playoff Foundation, the Los Angeles College Football Playoff National Championship Host Committee, and the LA84 Foundation will positively impact thousands of children across the Los Angeles region with expanded access to play and enhanced resources to learn. To read more about “Champions Educate Here” and for all updates related to Los Angeles hosting the College Football Playoff National Championship, please visit LosAngeles2023.com.

About the Los Angeles College Football Playoff National Championship Host Committee

The Los Angeles College Football Playoff National Championship Host Committee has been established to deliver a premier CFP National Championship experience and drive lasting social, cultural, and economic benefits for the entire Los Angeles region. We serve as the liaison between the College Football Playoff and Los Angeles to harness the opportunities surrounding the CFP National Championship. The Los Angeles Sports & Entertainment Commission (LASEC) and Chairman James Rishwain lead the Host Committee, with SoFi Stadium and Hollywood Park and the Los Angeles Rams included.

(more)



CHAMPIONS **EDUCATE** HERE

4-4-4

About the College Football Playoff Foundation

The College Football Playoff Foundation (@CFPEXtraYard) is the 501(c)3 non-profit organization serving as the community engagement arm of the College Football Playoff (@CFBPlayoff) and works in partnership with institutions of higher education, sports organizations, corporations, and non-profits to support educators and improve U.S. student outcomes. The purpose of the CFP Foundation lies in supporting PK-12 education across the country. The CFP Foundation's primary platform, Extra Yard for Teachers, is dedicated to elevating the teaching profession by inspiring and empowering teachers in four core areas: resources, recognition, professional development, recruitment, and retention.

About the LA84 Foundation

The LA84 Foundation is a national leader in support of youth sport and public education about the role of sports in positive youth development. For more than 35 years, the LA84 Foundation has supported thousands of youth-serving organizations in Southern California through grant making, funding facilities and fields of play, training coaches, and commissioning research. The LA84 Foundation takes on critical issues as a national thought leader by elevating youth sports and play as an integral to lifelong well-being. To learn more, visit www.la84.org and @LA84Foundation on Twitter and Instagram.

###