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PRESS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION SOUTHERN SECTION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE: #3

RELEASE DATE: September 19, 2025

20TH DR. JIM STAUNTON CHAMPIONS FOR CHARACTER AWARDS

LOS ALAMITOS, CA – On Monday, September 22, 2025, the California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section (CIF-SS) is proud to host its 19th Dr. Jim Staunton Champions for Character Awards Dinner at The Grand in Long Beach. You can visit www.cifss.org for more information.

Twenty-two years ago, the State CIF and all 10 sections partnered to promote the 16 principles of coaching, competing and teaching called “Pursuing Victory with Honor.” Since that time, we have seen school boards, superintendents, principals, athletic directors, athletic trainers, media members, officials and students embrace these principles to give our athletes tools for success on the playing field and in life.

To recognize those student-athletes that can combine a fierce competitive nature with the Six Pillars of Character; trustworthiness, responsibility, respect, fairness, caring and citizenship; the CIF-SS Ethics in Sports Committee created these awards. Athletes, coaches, administrators, officials, schools’ athletic trainers and media members who demonstrate these qualities are honored at the dinner and highlighted for their achievements. Additionally, all student winners receive scholarship money for their achievements.

“The Champions for Character awards recognition is one of my favorite things we do each year,” stated CIF Southern Section Commissioner of Athletics, Mike West. “I feel honored that we have the platform to recognize both students and adults alike for the character, sportsmanship and ethical behavior they demonstrate daily. It is important that we recognize not just those who win championships but also those who do their best and are positive role models in their community”, added West.

ABOUT THE CIF-SS

The CIF-SS is a non-profit corporation organized to direct and administer athletics in secondary schools within its membership and geographical boundaries. The Southern Section is one of 10 sections in the state of California. Not only is it the largest in the state (representing nearly one half of the state's high schools – 562 schools), but it is the 10th largest association of its type nationally. Each of the state sections operate independently, but all within the framework of the state federation.



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2024-2025 CIF Southern Section Champions for Character Award Recipients

STUDENTS

Haley Chow	Rowland
Marely Gonzalez	Canyon Springs
Carl Aragon	La Canada
Joshua James Townsell	Ruben S. Ayala
Malaya Majam-Finch	Fullerton
Marisa Lemus	West Covina
Mathew Chavez	Edgewood
Izak Simpson	Simi Valley
Tigran Khachatryan	Pilibos
Crystal Lai	AcaciaWood
Jackson Hoyer	Arlington

COACHES

Candice Thomas	Canyon Springs
Justin Luthey	La Canada
Christy Johnson	Woodcrest
Oscar McBride	Murrieta Mesa
Sondra Lough	ML King
Tim Kleveno	Arlington
Jeff Stanliand	Oxnard
Zaiid Leflore	Warren
Mike Maggiore	West Covina

ADMINISTRATORS

Dan Terry	Providence
Rob Thomas	Notre Dame/SO
Justin Remington	Canyon Springs
Anthony Soto	Edgewood
Paul Lopez	Fountain Valley
Dr. Victor Chayasirisobhon	Anaheim Discovery Christian

ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Jaxon Morgan	Edison
Robert Harrison	Elsinore
Michael Partida	Orange
Jacqueline Davidson	Sage Hill

OFFICIALS

Art Andrade	Football
Scott Root	Football

MEDIA

Jessica Esquer-Santana	Raider Sideline
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COMMISSIONER'S AWARD – California Sports Hall of Fame Scholarship

Sam Thomson	Edison
Carly Berzins	Alta Loma High School
Natalia Vela	Warren High School



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