



from Business Services

Congratulations to our own Phillip Burns OCDE Food Services Classified Employee of the Year Finalist! March 9, 2020

In AUHSD, we are fortunate to have so many amazing staff members. This year, one of our staff members, Phillip Burns, has been honored as the Orange County Department of Education's Food Services Classified Employee of the Year Finalist. Phillip was nominated by Tiffanie Bas, Assistant Director of Food Services, and Orlando Griego, Director of Food Services. He was selected as the OCDE finalist from nominees representing the 26 school districts in Orange County.

Phillip serves as our Sous Chef in AUHSD. While you might typically think about a Sous Chef creating meals in a fancy restaurant, Phillip takes great care in developing healthy and delicious meals for the students of both AUHSD and AESD. His responsibilities include recipe development, product testing, planning and production of special diets for special dietary accommodations for the District, and helping with the oversight of the District's Central Kitchen. Phillip's work ethic is to go above and beyond in all areas of his job duties. He brings in his culinary expertise to implement creative ideas to help improve the food served in our school district. He continuously seeks recipe ideas and food trends to develop menu ideas that students enjoy.

During a national student recipe competition, Food Services wanted an Anaheim High School student-created recipe called the Thunderstorm Slider to be added to the food services menu. Upon analyzing the recipe, it was discovered that the menu item was labor intensive to make and it exceeded our nutrient guidelines for school meals. Phillip spent a considerable amount of time to make changes to the recipe and conducted numerous taste testings (while staying true to the students' ideas) to make the recipe practical for our staff to produce on site,

and within the nutrient guidelines set by the USDA. The recipe was a success and is currently on the menu in several schools throughout the District.

Phillip also plays a lead role in the production of special diets for students with special dietary needs. In this age, food allergies, intolerances, and special dietary accommodations are increasing. Phillip has helped to create a system to ensure that students receive the proper food items, helping to provide them with a safe meal. He has also trained staff on how to prepare safe food texture modification diets.

We are so proud of Phillip for being selected as the OCDE Food Services Classified Employee of the Year Finalist. He will now be submitted as OCDE's nomination for the State-Wide Food Services Classified Employee of the Year. We wish Phillip the best of luck and know that he is a shining example of the amazing employees that we have in AUHSD.

