



2026 Sandy Liu Community Service Leadership Award

THE AWARD

The annual Sandy Liu Community Service Leadership Award honors a member of our local community who has demonstrated exemplary leadership in service to the children of the Cupertino Union School District (CUSD).

Individuals making major contributions to the quality of education for students across CUSD (across multiple schools, at the district level or in the larger community) are eligible to be nominated for the award.

Sandy Liu was a visionary leader of Blue Hills Elementary School and CUSD communities. A loving mother of two, Sandy passionately dedicated her life to improving the quality of education for all children. In 2010 she played an instrumental role in leading the collaborative effort of parents, local businesses, local leadership, CUSD, and CEEF to retain 115 K-8 teachers, prevent K-8 teacher reshuffling, and maintain a 20:1 class size ratio in Grades 1 – 3 district-wide by raising \$2.5 million in 2.5 months. She similarly battled cancer – with courage and persistence, grace, and beauty.

The winner of the Annual Sandy Liu Community Service Leadership Award will be formally acknowledged at the CUSD Board meeting, and a \$1,000 grant will be allocated to an educational program in CUSD of their choice.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Any person, agency, or organization is encouraged to submit nominations of individuals for consideration for this award.

- All submissions (emailed to director@ceefcares.org) must be **received by CEEF by 5:00 PM on Friday, March 27, 2026** to be considered. Handwritten or mailed applications will not be accepted.
- **Winners will be notified by Friday, April 3, 2026 and awarded on Thursday, April 23, 2026** at the CUSD Board of Trustees meeting. The winner does not need to be present.

GUIDELINES

- Individuals may not nominate themselves.
- Individuals making major contributions to the quality of education for students across CUSD. This may include outstanding service to an individual school (its students, school personnel, its site development and upkeep, and to its parents) but must *also* include service at other school(s), at the district level, or in the local community.
- When considering the nomination of a paid staff person, please consider whether this person is meeting their job requirements or is performing “above and beyond” the specifications of the paid position.
- Nominees need not reside in the city of Cupertino; however, the efforts for which they are being nominated should strongly impact the students of CUSD.



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NOMINATION FORM

1. Name of Nominee:

- Nominee Address:
- Telephone:
- Email Address:

2. Name of Nominator:

- Nominator Address:
- Telephone:
- Email Address:

In 500 words or less, how do you feel your nominee best honors the legacy of Sandy Liu?

Please include in your answer the following:

- Demonstrated leadership positions held.
- Demonstrated ability across CUSD to motivate and collaborate with others creatively and respectfully in support of education.
- Demonstrated commitment to the welfare of all children within CUSD.

Please email your completed application to director@ceefcares.org by 5:00 PM on Friday, March 27, 2026 to be considered. Handwritten or mailed applications will not be accepted.