



For Immediate Release
March 31 2014

Contact: Adam Ratliff
Larson Communications
(415) 722-0739

Embargoed Until 3:00 pm PST on March 31, 2013

CALIFORNIA TEACHER CORPS NAMES LOS ANGELES READING COACH EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Los Angeles Times reporter turned teacher recognized for impact on urban special education students

Sacramento, CA – The California Teacher Corps, the statewide organization representing California’s alternative certification programs, today announced that Allan Hallis is the recipient of the 2014 Michael McKibbin Outstanding Educator of the Year Award. Hallis is a Transition and Instructional Coach at the Intensive Diagnostic Education Centers (IDEC) in Los Angeles.

The award honors an exemplary California educator who pursued teaching through an alternative certification program and is now serving in a high-need public school. Hallis will receive the award at the Fourth Annual California Teacher Corps Conference on March 31 in Sacramento, CA.

“We are thrilled to recognize Allan Hallis as the recipient of the 2014 Michael McKibbin Outstanding Educator of the Year Award,” said California Teacher Corps President Patricia Pernin. “Mr. Hallis embodies the skill and commitment of all Teacher Corps teachers, more than 55,000 educators who work tirelessly in underserved communities and high-need subjects to serve California students. We know that the right teacher makes all the difference. Hallis makes such a difference, by providing and supporting a pathway for his high school students to master reading.”

Hallis was actively involved in the growth of his district’s pilot reading program for special education students, the Intensive Diagnostic Educational Centers (IDEC). Today, Hallis serves as an Instructional Coach for IDEC, where he works closely with all 20 program sites across the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

Before entering the teaching profession, Hallis was a sports journalist at the *Los Angeles Times*, where he interviewed luminaries such as Muhammad Ali. Hallis, hoping to make an important difference in the lives of children, enrolled in the LAUSD Intern Program in 2011, earning his Special Education Teacher credential in 2013.

“I am deeply honored to accept this award,” said Hallis. “With the increased integration of educational technologies and strengthened commitments to the full inclusion of all students, it is an exciting time to be a teacher. I am proud to be counted as one of the thousands of dedicated educators who give their heart and soul to advocate for our amazing students.”

This year’s awards also include first and second Runners Up to the prize. First Runner Up David Crowley is an English teacher at San Pedro High School in the LAUSD. Crowley relies on his professional experience as a public relations executive in the music industry to relate to and impact his students. Crowley has also been honored by the Southern California Honda Dealers and the Los Angeles City Council.

Second Runner Up Jessica Matos is a former professional singer, who entered the teaching profession after a successful music career, followed by marketing experience in Italy and Singapore. Now an elementary school Resource Specialist at Daniel Weber Elementary School in the San Francisco Unified School District, Matos teaches students that are from traditionally underserved and low-income communities.

“All of our nominees bring a wealth of diverse experience into our classrooms,” added Pernin. “Without the critical alternative certification pathway, many highly-talented individuals would not be able to help meet the growing need for great teachers in California.”

The following California educators received Honorable Mentions:

- Brandon Chiapa, Alta Vista Elementary School, Tulare County Impact Intern Program
- Joe Linares, Jefferson Middle School, National University Intern Program
- Gonzalo Meza, River Bend Elementary School, Tulare County Impact Intern Program
- Nancy Smith, Shandin Hills Middle School, CSU, San Bernardino Intern Program
- Niels Sondergaard Burgess, Sequoia High School, Tulare County Impact Intern Program
- Jason Turletsky, Shadow Hills High School, CSU, San Bernardino Intern Program
- Brittany Wrightson, Visitacion Valley Middle School, CSU, San Francisco Intern Program

The Michael McKibbin Outstanding Educator Award is named in honor of Michael McKibbin, a strong advocate for alternative route to certification programs in California. McKibbin was instrumental in establishing and supporting the alternative pathway through more than two decades of working with the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

About the California Teacher Corps

The California Teacher Corps is a nonprofit organization established in 2009 with the goal of placing 100,000 highly-qualified teachers in California’s communities by 2020. The Teacher Corps provides a unified voice for the state’s alternative certification programs, effectively and proactively addresses teacher preparation issues facing California and recruits the best and the brightest professionals to teach in the public schools that need them most. CA Teacher Corps membership trains second-career teachers, and others committed to working in hard-to-staff schools, who have deep subject-area expertise and who remain in the teaching profession. For more information, visit the California Teacher Corps at www.cateachercorps.org.

###