



January 2020

AchieveKids is Turning 60!

We are planning a wide array of events to celebrate.

Be on the lookout for specific dates shortly!

Celebrating 60 Years of Exceptional Schools

AchieveKids is turning 60! From our beginnings of parents recognizing a local need to meet the needs of learners with disabilities to the thriving two school campuses we offer today, AchieveKids is an innovator in meeting the needs of complex learners in special education. We are proud of the wealth of talent on our campuses and in our Learning for Life system that tailors each learning plan and helps us be agile in creating opportunities for our students.



As we begin this year of celebration, we are excited about recent accomplishments demonstrating the impact we have on the communities we serve. This month Glenna Howe will be honored in Savannah, Georgia by the National Association of Private Special Education Centers as the Direct Service Professional of the Year. Glenna has over 29 years of service to the AchieveKids community. She has been instrumental in the redesign of our transition system and our outcomes have been remarkable. It is an honor to see Glenna recognized for her work in enriching our schools and the lives of the students we serve. There is no better way to begin our year of celebration than to have a core team member win national recognition! Congratulations Glenna!

We also want to highlight two individuals who make our community thrive and demonstrate why we have had such strong schools throughout our history. The first is Skye Cary. This is Skye's 40th anniversary in our community. Skye has served as a teacher, a School Director, and now as a Program Specialist. She is a career special educator whose passion for our students is unquestioned. The second is Sean Murphy, who is in his first year with our team. Sean is a talented educator with amazing analytical skills and mastery of curricular development and academic instructional models. It is professionals like these who make our community safe for our learners, enriching for our students, and help our schools be the extraordinary places they are for the communities we serve.

Together We Can Achieve!

Ryan C. Eisenberg

Skye Cary



Skye Cary is celebrating her 40th year with AchieveKids. Skye first began her journey in this field by reading a book in high school about special education. She pursued her interest further and tested the waters by volunteering in high school. She studied Special Education at UC Santa Cruz and received her moderate to severe teaching credential from San Jose State. Skye discovered AchieveKids while working at Abilities United Daycare. She noticed that many students also attended AchieveKids. She asked to do her student teaching here, and the rest is history.

Before becoming our Program Specialist, Skye was a teacher here for 25 years and then became the School Director at our San Jose campus for 12 years. When asked about the transition between each position, she said that going from a teacher to a School Director was difficult because she missed being in the classroom working directly with the students. Skye is very grateful to be able to work in an environment where she can express herself through her own personal style and teaching methods and also feels that her voice is heard no matter what. This has enabled her to be more creative and develop programs that work for the students at AchieveKids. Skye's goals for the future are to pass on as much knowledge as she can and then retire. Congratulations on 40 wonderful years Skye!

Sean Murphy

AchieveKids welcomes Sean Murphy to the Palo Alto campus. Sean grew up in Michigan as an only child. His parents worked as physical and speech therapists for the public school system. After being involved with the special education community his entire life through his parents work and the volunteer work they did as a family, it seemed to make sense to him to get a degree in Special Education. Sean graduated from Michigan State University with his degree in Special Education and a focus on teaching students with learning disabilities. After graduating, he taught for three years and then moved to Phoenix, Arizona where he ran a tutoring service to help homeschooled students with learning disabilities. This experience helped prepare him for AchieveKids.



He is very passionate about making sure that students of all income levels have access to equitable education opportunities. In the future he hopes to get a degree in Administration and work to improve education policy to create a variety of programs to meet all student needs. He also hopes that at some point he can teach abroad in South America or the Middle East. For now he is happy to be in Palo Alto with his new kitten, Ollie, and teaching at AchieveKids.

If you have any topics or program aspects you'd like to learn more about; or have suggestions for future topics, please let us know. Email info@achievekids.org

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