



May 13, 2026

Longtime Bearcat Volunteer Vickie Werling Awarded Key to the District

PASO ROBLES, Calif. — Paso Robles Joint Unified School District (PRJUSD) honored longtime volunteer and community leader Vickie Werling with the District’s highest volunteer recognition, the “Key to the District” award, during the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday evening.

Established during the 2024-25 school year, the Key to the District award recognizes an individual or group whose extraordinary service has made a lasting and meaningful impact on District students, schools and the broader community. The inaugural award was presented in 2025 to Sayra Celis for her service to Lewis Flamson Junior High School.

The annual honor is presented to volunteers who exemplify dedication, leadership, collaboration and a deep commitment to student success.

Werling was recognized for years of tireless service supporting Paso Robles High School athletics, students and families through her leadership with the Bearcat Booster organization, her work as a volleyball coach and her role in numerous campus improvement and community-building initiatives.

“I have been involved in high school athletics for nearly forty years,” said PRHS Principal and Athletic Director Michael Susank during the presentation. “In all that time, I have never encountered a leader more committed, professional, organized, or selfless than Vickie Werling.”

Susank described Werling as a constant presence behind the scenes of PRHS athletics, often spending long hours preparing for and supporting Friday night football games, organizing booster operations and ensuring programs run smoothly for students and families.

In addition to coaching both indoor and beach volleyball, Werling helped lead several major projects benefiting current and future students, including the baseball batting cage project and the construction of the school’s beach volleyball courts. She also recently spearheaded the inaugural Future Bearcat Festival, a new TK-8 community event designed to bring together students and families from across Paso Robles schools.

District leaders also highlighted Werling’s leadership in revitalizing the Bearcat Booster snack bar operation, transforming it into a welcoming and efficient hub that serves hundreds of families and community members during athletic events.

“What truly makes Vickie special is that she never seeks out recognition,” Susank said. “She simply sees a need and steps in to help.”

The Key to the District award recognizes volunteers whose service demonstrates exceptional commitment, positive impact, alignment with District values and the ability to inspire others through leadership and civic engagement. Final selection is made by the Superintendent.



“On behalf of our entire District, I am honored to present this Key to the District in recognition of your lasting impact, your dedicated service, and your unwavering commitment to PRJUSD students,” Susank said during the ceremony.

Werling’s recognition reflects the profound impact dedicated volunteers continue to have across Paso Robles Joint Unified School District schools, programs and student experiences each year.

About Paso Robles Joint Unified School District

Paso Robles Joint Unified School District serves more than 6,400 students across northern San Luis Obispo County. Guided by its core values of integrity, accountability, collaboration, innovation, compassion, and belonging, PRJUSD is committed to providing a safe, supportive environment where every student feels valued, empowered, and prepared to thrive.

For media inquiries, please contact:
Paso Robles Joint Unified School District
Melissa Godsey
Public Information Officer
mjgodsey@pasoschools.org