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San Antonio educator named national Family Teacher of the Year runner-up
\$5,000 Toyota Family Teacher of the Year grant will expand dual-language education outreach efforts

SAN ANTONIO (September 20, 2019) — It's no secret why parents want their child in Andrea Greimel's dual language, prekindergarten class at Carvajal Early Childhood Education Center: she shares her love of learning and family literacy, nurtures young learners, and empowers parents to be more involved in their children's academic life. As a result, Toyota and the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) recognized Greimel as the 2019 Toyota Family Teacher of the Year runner-up. As runner-up, Greimel and the San Antonio Independent School District will receive a \$5,000 grant to expand dual-language education within the district.

"Andrea Greimel has shown her dedication and love to the children of San Antonio for 30 years," said Mike Goss, general manager, Social Innovation, Toyota Motor North America. "This is very special in that San Antonio is home to Toyota and our Tundra and Tacoma trucks. Toyota, its team members and the community at-large are extremely lucky to have this wonderful educator. Andrea's work as a dual language pre-kindergarten teacher is making a positive and lasting impact."

Greimel is credited with helping parents understand the cognitive, social and emotional, and cultural and oral language benefits of dual-language learning. An instrumental player in bringing dual-language education to San Antonio ISD, Griemal also leads culturally relevant parent-engagement events. This includes opportunities for families to write and record their own family stories with their children. She also brings her love of the arts – including poetry and dance – into the classroom and helps her students connect to literacy through dramatization.

"We commend Andrea on how she has integrated two-generation learning with culturally relevant activities and dual-language education, not only in her own classroom and school but throughout San Antonio ISD," said Dr. Josh Cramer, executive vice president, NCFL. "Andrea's leadership and passion for nurturing student and family success is evident. Research shows students with engaged parents do better in school."

Greimel's efforts are backing up that research.

"We see the impact Andrea has on her students and families as they progress through elementary school," said Sonya Cardenas, principal of Carvajal Elementary. "By engaging the entire family

throughout the school year, students feel better supported and are able to better meet their academic potential.”

The Toyota Family Teacher of the Year award, a national honor now in its 23rd year, recognizes families play a crucial role in the success of children and salutes educators who are exceptional at using intergenerational approaches to engage students and their families in education.

Greimel and winner Colleen Ryan, of Chattanooga, Tenn., will be recognized for their accomplishments at the annual NCFL Families Learning Conference in Louisville, Ky., on November 5. The conference convenes the nation’s most progressive experts in education, policy, and family and parent engagement to discuss and share the latest information regarding multigenerational approaches to learning.

Since 1997, Toyota’s Family Teacher of the Year winner, runner-up, and their respective organizations have received \$575,000.

ABOUT NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILIES LEARNING

The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) is a national nonprofit organization working to eradicate poverty through education solutions for families. Partnering with educators, literacy advocates, and policymakers, NCFL develops and provides programming, professional development, and resources from the classroom to the community that empower and raise families to achieve their potential. For more information on NCFL, visit familieslearning.org.

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