



Buena Vista Continuation High School Nurse Sherry Ma listens as Board of Education President Andrew Cruz reads a commendation, honoring Ma for her work with students.

School nurse helps Buena Vista High students thrive

Although Buena Vista Continuation High School nurse Sherry Ma was being honored at the Aug. 18 Board of Education meeting, she took the opportunity at the podium to thank district officials for helping to keep the Chino school's Infant and Toddler Center open.

The center, which cares for the babies and young children of teen parents attending Buena Vista, was facing closure at the end of the school year in 2012 when the recession forced the district to make difficult budget cuts. But district officials crunched the budget numbers and re-opened a scaled-down version of the center that fall.

Ma, who was being honored Aug. 18 for her outstanding work with students, said she has seen the good that the center has done when she spots the Buena Vista High graduates working in the community.

“If we teach them they’ll teach their children,” Ma said. “And *we will* see their children in the district.”

Ma has served as school nurse at Buena Vista since the late 1990s. She also served as a school nurse at Glenmeade, Litel, Oak Ridge, and Butterfield Ranch elementary schools.

Prior to that, she was a public health nurse for HIV and tuberculosis patients at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Ma was named Chino Valley Unified School District’s Nurse of the Year in 2008.

Board trustee James Na told the audience at the Aug. 18 board meeting that Ma once saved a toddler’s life when she recognized that his symptoms were extremely serious and called an ambulance.

The students under her care have said Ma is easy to talk to and provides them with good advice. One girl had built such a close relationship with Ma that the teen called the school nurse first following a traffic accident.