

## Press Clippings 11/15/19

---Daily Herald---11/15/2019

### Aurora and its first responders honored during Reflejos 'Reflecting Excellence' event

By: Barbara Vitello



Reflejos manager of sales and operations Linda Siete, with microphone, introduces Aurora police officers and firefighters Wednesday during the 8th Annual Reflejos Reflecting Excellence Awards.



Aurora Police and Fire Department members show their awards at the 8th Annual Reflejos Reflecting Excellence Awards at the Stonegate Conference and Banquet Centre in Hoffman Estates Wednesday.



Keynote speaker Nate Santana, from NBC's "Chicago Med," speaks at the 8th Annual Reflejos Reflecting Excellence Awards at the Stonegate Conference and Banquet Centre in Hoffman Estates.



Elgin Area School District U-46 chief executive officer Tony Sanders pays tribute to his late friend and colleague, Ron Raglin, who was posthumously awarded the Giving Back by Example Award at the 8th Annual Reflejos Reflecting Excellence Awards Wednesday.

Aurora was recognized for its commitment to community and its first responders were honored for their diligence and courage Wednesday during Reflejos' 8th annual Reflecting Excellence ceremony at Stonegate Conference and Banquet Centre in Hoffman Estates.

The awards reflect efforts by the winners to promote diversity.

Aurora police officers and firefighters were recognized for their response to the Feb. 15 shooting at the Henry Pratt Company that claimed the lives of five employees and injured six officers. The shooter was also killed.

Flanked by police officers and firefighters, Aurora spokesman Clayton Muhammad accepted the award recalling that tragic day nine months ago that no community wants to experience but that far too many have endured.

The strength Aurora drew upon that day continues to sustain the community, said Muhammad, who praised the city's first responders as the finest in the country, adding they are among the factors that resulted in Aurora being named the "number one city in America to live the American dream."

Other honorees included the late Ron Raglin, Elgin Area School District U-46 assistant superintendent of educational support programs and alignment, who championed equity in education and social justice. Raglin died of a heart attack in August 2019.

Friend and colleague Tony Sanders, U-46 CEO, described Raglin as "a driving force of equity in our region" who served the district faithfully for seven years.

Among his accomplishments was a program designed to help B and C students improve enough to enroll in advanced placement classes, Sanders said, adding under Raglin's guidance, the program expanded from 900 students to more than 2,000 students.

Raglin's dream was "for every student to know we care about them through our actions," he said.

No one should "depart this world without knowing how much we love them," Sanders said. "That was Ron's gift to us."

In his keynote speech, actor/director Nate Santana, of NBC's "Chicago Med" and an ensemble member of Teatro Vista and Shattered Globe theaters, shared life lessons from his acting training. He urged attendees, which included eight suburban scholarship recipients, to recognize the value of hard work, resist attempts at typecasting and accept who you are "and refuse to apologize for it," he said.

"There is nothing outside of you that is going to create your own happiness. It comes from within yourself," he said.

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### **List of honorees**

The following individuals and organizations were honored for their efforts on promoting the benefits of diversity during Reflejos' 8th annual Reflecting Excellence awards ceremony Wednesday in Hoffman Estates.

### **Making a Difference within the Community**

International Salsa Congress  
City of Aurora  
Aurora Police Department  
Sherman Advocate  
Coalition for a Healthy & Safe Elgin  
Lake County United Way

### **Outstanding Community Colleges**

Elgin Community College  
Oakton Community College  
Joliet Junior College  
McHenry County College  
Harper College  
Waubonsee Community College  
College of DuPage

### **Giving Back**

Ron Raglin  
Juanita Bassler  
Steven Douglas  
Maria Elena Jonas  
Kenneth Young Center  
Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project  
Food for Greater Elgin

## **Historians**

Gail Borden Public Library District  
Barrington Area Library  
Waukegan Public Library  
Palatine Public Library District  
Indian Trails Public Library District  
Schaumburg Township Library

## **Future Leaders**

Stephanie Gutierrez  
Michelle Eloisa  
Karen Pliego  
Ruby Trujillo  
Daisy Antunez  
Lesley Aguilar  
Cecilia Campos  
Lizeth Leon

## **Elgin Golden K Kiwanis gives donation to start 'Coat Closet' at local school**

**Submitted by: Elgin Golden K Kiwanis Club**



Captain Xavier Montenegro, left, of the Elgin Salvation Army office, accepts a \$500 contribution from Kiwanian Tom Petersen at a recent meeting of the Elgin Golden K Kiwanis Club.

The Elgin Golden K Kiwanis Club welcomed Captain Xavier Montenegro of the Salvation Army Elgin Corps to a recent meeting. The club gave a \$500 contribution to

establish a "Coat Closet" in an Elgin Area School District U-46 school in the name of the local Golden K Club.

The closets will provide winter coats to needy students and will be administered by the Salvation Army with recommendations from U-46 administrators.

The Salvation Army is looking for additional contributions from civic organizations in the area. Contact the Elgin Salvation Army at (847) 741-2304 for more information.

The Elgin Golden K Kiwanis Club meets every Wednesday morning in the lower level of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 Division St. in Elgin. The meetings begin at 9 a.m. and feature a special guest speaker each week. They always welcome new members who want to be involved in service to the Elgin community.

The Elgin Golden K Kiwanis club is a part of the International Kiwanis Club dedicated to "serving the children of the world."

Join them for a cup of coffee and a "half a doughnut" to begin your day.

For information on the club, visit [www.elgingoldenk.org](http://www.elgingoldenk.org).

## **---The Courier-News---11/15/2019 Report: U46 student enrollment drops by 557**

District numbers decrease by 1.4% from last fall, official cites declining birth rate in ongoing trend

**By: Rafael Guerrero**

School District U-46 enrollment dropped by nearly 570 students from fall 2018 to fall 2019, data shows.

The 1.4% decrease continues a yearslong slide for the state's largest school district outside of Chicago. According to the most recent numbers, there are 38,014 students currently enrolled in the district's 57 schools and educational programs; last year the number was 38,571.

Since 2014, when enrollment for 40,487, the numbers has gone down anywhere from 350 to 634 students annually.

"We would expect we will continue seeing a decline of at least 300 to 400 students per year for the next several years," Chief Operations Officer Jeff King said at the Nov. 4 school board meeting.

The declining birth rate is playing a role both here and across the state, King said. The number of births in Kane, DuPage and suburban Cook counties — all of which have

areas located in District U46 — were all lower in 2017 than at the start of the decade, the Illinois Department of Health reports.

Another factor, unlike other towns, is many homeowners are not moving out of the houses where they raised their children, King said.

“You’re seeing older couples staying in their households even though their children are gone, and the houses are not turning over,” he said.

School board President Sue Kerr added that the number of new homes being built in the district has slowed. In the 1990s, hundreds of family homes were being built annually, which is not the case anymore, she said.

The South Pointe development near Middle Street and Route 25 in South Elgin is about the only large residential project happening within district limits, King said. Once completed, though, it could mean crowding issues for nearby elementary schools, he said.

Elementary school enrollment dropped from 19,064 students in fall 2018 to 18,577 in fall 2019, a margin of 487 students, data shows. Middle school enrollment stayed flat, falling 5,904 students to 5,900. High school enrollment was down 87 students, from 12,265 students to 12,178.

Overall, 29 elementary schools, four middle schools and three high school programs reported year-to-year declines. Ninth graders make up the largest group in the district at 3,300; the smallest group is second-graders at 2,520.

“It’s pretty clear from these numbers that we’re kind of at a point now where ... those declines are going to start moving through the system,” board member Melissa Owens said.

Class sizes in K-6 general education classrooms range from 19 in kindergarten to 24 in sixth grade, according to the report. The numbers have decreased annually over the last five years at every grade level except kindergarten, data shows.

The average class sizes in K-6 dual-language or English learners classrooms range from 20 in kindergarten to 23 in sixth grade. According to enrollment data, class size averages have declined but at a slower rate than general education classrooms.