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## Services Employee is Helping to Bring Art Back into the Classroom



**Fontana, Calif.-** Art is expression. Art is imagination. Art is a tool used to inspire children to learn for Community Services employee Celeste Garcia. This Fontana native gives back to her community by bringing art into local classrooms through the Leading Educational Arts Program (LEAP).

After a year of volunteering with the Art Depot Gallery, Celeste became an official employee with the Community Services Department. She is responsible for preparing lessons and teaching with the Leading Educational Arts Program (LEAP). Funded by the City of Fontana, LEAP visits 32 sites in the Fontana School District with the goal of bringing art into the lives of students through cultural art presentations. "I love this because usually art isn't the center focus at school and considered an extra-curricular." Celeste brings enthusiasm to her students and is driven to do everything to her best ability.

Her most enjoyed aspect of the position is teaching students about different mediums of art, which consists of supplies and techniques specific to each medium. The mediums include acrylic painting,

sketching using oil and chalk pastels, sculpting and watercolor painting. Her favorite medium is watercolor painting, because "it is considered to be the most difficult medium to learn and is absolutely beautiful."

At the end of each school year, three to five projects from each site are displayed at the Steelworkers Auditorium. From the artists themselves to their family and friends, everyone is invited to attend the showcase to view the artists' work.

Celeste's passion for art, specifically photography, began in elementary school. She discovered photography when annotating articles, and "was astonished that people would travel and write articles about the places they have been with their discoveries. My interest flourished from there."

As a Fontana native, Celeste graduated from Jurupa Hills High School in 2016. She is now on her way to graduating with a B.A. in Social Sciences at California State University San Bernardino. She plans to continue her education with Graduate School, and become a Social Work Administrator.

In her spare time, Celeste likes to hike and explore new places with friends.

Celeste has been selected as the City of Fontana Employee Spotlight for the month of November based on nominations from her peers. "At only 19 years of age, she is someone to look up to as a professional. She is optimistic, creative, and above all, just a joy to work with," states a colleague.

For more information about the Leading Educational Arts Program or the Art Depot, please visit the [Art Depot Gallery webpage](#) or call (909) 349-6975.