



Communications Office  
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### **“Dr. Raja” Helps At-Risk Students Defy Expectations**

Kadhir Rajagopal, mathematics teacher at Grant Union High School (GUHS) in the Twin Rivers Unified School District, was selected as one of the five California Teachers of the Year. Rajagopal was selected from among 15 Sacramento area teachers to represent the county in the California Teachers of the Year competition.

Dr. Raja, as he is known on campus, teaches Algebra at Grant Union High School. Engaging students and proving to them that they can be successful is the driving force behind his approach to teaching. It's what inspires him to share his methods with others. Rajagopal spends a period a day working with other GUHS teachers and is the focus of a district-wide professional development day on Friday, November 12.

“The story of my teaching experience has been helping students rise from failure to success,” writes Rajagopal. “My greatest accomplishment in education is my success in helping students who have failed for years to consistently exceed all expectations.”

“He makes it a personal mission to truly engage students and provide a learning environment that captures a student's interest and makes them want to be successful,” said Deputy Superintendent Dr. Ziggy Robeson. “He uses language students understand to connect and motivate them. Raja is representative of the caring and motivated teachers across our district and this State who inspire students every day.”

Through a partnership with UC Davis, Rajagopal has seen a lot of success with his [“DaPAC”](#) (Pacers Achieving College) summer program that has helped a group of students move from failing algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade to scoring higher than the California average in Algebra and entering Trigonometry/Pre-calculus in their sophomore year.

Rajagopal is one of two teachers representing Sacramento County in the California Teachers of the Year program. Shannan Brown, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Edison Elementary in the San Juan Unified School District was also named one of California's best.

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