

HONORING BONNIE MINTUN WITH
CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 26, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bonnie Mintun as a woman of the year. She has been a lifetime advocate for children with disabilities in her community. She was one of a small group of parents and teachers in her community of Davis who pushed the Davis Joint Unified School District

to provide adequate education for children with disabilities. In 1989, thanks in large part to her work, Davis Joint Unified School District became the first school district in California to provide inclusive education to students with moderate to severe disabilities. This accomplishment alone demonstrates the lasting impact that Ms. Mintun has had on her community, but her work to improve education for those with disabilities did not stop with her first success. Ten years ago, she co-founded the Communication Technology Education Center, a non-profit organization aimed at connecting individuals with communication challenges to assistive technology and augmented alter-

native communication devices. Through this work, her organization helps people of all abilities to communicate, thus helping foster a more inclusive society. Beyond her many accomplishments, Ms. Mintun lends her time and expertise to many advisory committees that support individuals with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities. Her most recent effort is ensuring that inclusive, universal design principles are adopted as guidelines in designing the new Downtown Davis Specific Plan. Ms. Mintun is an inspiration to parents, teachers, and community members looking to make our community inclusive to people of all abilities.