Special Award for Local Activist Group
Woodland Coalition for Green Schools

The Coalition was founded by UC Davis professor of Native American Studies, Liza Grandia, in 2017 after she discovered students and parents were nauseated and overwhelmed from the toxic, acrid smell of new carpet in her daughter's second grade class. Dr. Grandia happened to be spending a sabbatical year studying toxicology and environmental epidemiology to incorporate more scientific expertise into research and advocacy with indigenous groups facing extractive and others environmental threats of their territories.

She began applying her newfound knowledge to raise concerns with the Woodland School District Board of Trustees about toxic chemicals. In short order her relentless advocacy resulted in the District replacing all of the off-gassing carpet, eliminating glyphosate from their list of approved chemicals for weed control, and hiring a new environmental officer for the District. She has been featured in a number of regional TV broadcasts and has initiated a new program to help parents and students “Green their Lives” to the benefit of everyone in the Woodland School District and the City.