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DISTRICT PRESENTS ANNUAL AWARDS, WELCOMES NEW TEACHERS

REDWOOD CITY, Calif., Aug. 17, 2009 - Faculty and staff in the Sequoia Union High School District assembled this morning for the annual convocation, marking the start of the 2009-10 academic year. (The fall semester starts for students on Aug. 19.)

In his annual message to the District's 800 teachers and staff members, Superintendent Patrick Gemma, Ed.D, spoke to a collective renewal of the District's vision: *All students are engaged and prepared to excel in a 21st century global society.*

In his remarks, the superintendent addressed the significant challenges facing the district and K-12 education in California but declared that, through collaboration among all staff, "the district's commitment to quality will continue to be strengthened in the year ahead."

Gordon Lewin, a member of the district school board for the past eight years, and Sally Stewart, Ph.D., a trustee for the past quarter-century, opened the event with some reflections and comments as they complete their final months as trustees (neither will be running for re-election when their terms end in December).

Opening remarks were followed by introduction of 44 new teachers representing diverse backgrounds, including a number for whom teaching is a second or third career, and many who have studied abroad and are fluent in one or more languages in addition to English.

Presentation of the annual awards highlighted the morning program, including presentation of **Teacher of the Year** to two mathematics teachers: Glenn Carpenter of Woodside High School and Mike Radoye of Sequoia High School.

Carpenter, who serves as a master teacher and mentor to student teachers, is known for his skill in using hands-on teaching techniques to engage and motivate students. He has a bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and a law degree from Stanford.

A master instructor of mathematics with a belief that all students can learn, Radoye employs engaging instructional strategies that help him succeed with students across the academic spectrum. A member of the Sequoia faculty since 1983, Radoye graduated from Indiana University with a bachelor's in math, and he holds master's degrees in secondary education and educational administration from California State University-San Francisco.

Also presented at the convocation was the award for **Employee of the Year** to Jesus Garcia, a custodian at Menlo-Atherton who inspires students to contribute in keeping the campus impeccably clean, and John Parker Campbell, who, in addition to his role as instructional aide in the special education department at Carlmont, fosters student interest in creative writing and poetry as part of Carlmont's after-school programs.

Adult School Employee of the Year was presented to Juan Ramirez, who was recognized for his many contributions, including helping to improve the school's intake process for English learners and GED students.

Volunteer of the Year was presented to Victoria Anderson, Sequoia; Laura Rhodes, Woodside; Nina Stahl, Carlmont; Pam Stoner, Menlo-Atherton; and Steven Grabianowski, Redwood High School.

Presentations were also made at the convocation to veteran employees who have reached or will reach milestone anniversaries in the 2009 calendar year. Honorees with **30 years** of service included Zaida Bowers, math teacher at Sequoia; Linda Lum, food services worker with the district; and Wendell Wiley, custodian at Menlo-Atherton.

Honorees with **20 years** of service included Guillermo Acevado, GED technician at the adult school; James Beacom, science teacher at Sequoia; Maryln Bussey, guidance advisor and International Baccalaureate program coordinator at Sequoia; Lisa Camera, English teacher at Woodside; Sarah Cane, English teacher at Menlo-Atherton; Peter Caryotakis, science teacher at Menlo-Atherton; Joanne Davis, school secretary at Carlmont; David Gomez, Jr., social studies teacher at Carlmont; Mark Leeper, industrial arts teacher at Menlo-Atherton; Craig Newton, business and math teacher at Carlmont; David Olson, lead maintenance plumber for the district; Donald Parry, maintenance carpenter for the district; Carol-Ann Piehl, science teacher at Woodside; Wendy Porter, social studies teacher at Woodside; Concetta "Connie" Sala, library assistant at Woodside; Sonia Seaburg, French teacher at Menlo-Atherton; Marvis Stoecker, library assistant at Menlo-Atherton; Laszlo Tomka, bus driver with the district; and Kathryn Weingand, German teacher at Sequoia.

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