



For Immediate Release

2010 Kent Awards Highlight Excellence and Innovation in Schools Across the County
New Award Added in Honor of Education Pioneer Emily Garfield

Burlingame, CA - April 15, 2010 -- The San Mateo County School Board Association (SMCSBA), representing 22 school districts, the San Mateo Community College District, and the San Mateo County Office of Education, today announced the 2010 winners of the J. Russell Kent Awards.

The awards are given to outstanding and innovative programs either in the classroom or outside the classroom as well as district-wide programs. Applicants must demonstrate their programs promote student success, employ a high degree of creativity, and demonstrate transferability. Named after the past San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools, J. Russell Kent, SMCSBA initiated the J. Russell Kent Award Program in the 1980-81 school year.

The 2010 Kent Award winners include programs that deliver enrichment and "whole child" curriculum, programs for at-risk teens, solutions that address the achievement gap, and support for parents, teachers, and community partnerships.

The Kent Awards ceremony will be held on **Monday, May 10th at 6pm at the Doubletree Hotel in Burlingame, California** (social hour and musical performance to begin at 6pm with dinner and the awards ceremony to follow at 7pm). At the ceremony, the 16 award winners will be honored, including:

- The Peer Mediation Program (Tierra Linda Middle School, San Carlos School District)
- Blooming in the Garden Cafe (Menlo Park City School District)
- 3rd - 8th Grade Enrichment Program (North Star School, Redwood City School District)
- Literature Comes to Life (McKinley Elementary School, Burlingame School District)
- Menlo-Atherton Teachers' Collaborative Professional Development Program (Menlo-Atherton High School, Sequoia Union High School District)
- Brittan Acres Elementary Special Day Class Program (Brittan Acres School, San Carlos School District)
- Coastside Community School Initiative (Cunha Intermediate School, Cabrillo Unified School District)
- Technology Tools for Diverse Learners (Ormondale School and Corte Madera School, Portola Valley School District)
- Familias Unidas (Hoover Elementary School, Redwood City School District)
- Positive Points Program (Abbott Middle School, San Mateo-Foster City School District)
- Club Central Afterschool Learning Club (Central Elementary School, Belmont-Redwood Shores School District)
- Pacifica School Volunteers (Pacifica School District and Jefferson Union High School District)

- Lomita Park After School Education and Safety Program (Lomita Park Elementary School, Millbrae School District)
- Baywood's Latino Community Outreach Program (Baywood Elementary School, San Mateo-Foster City School District)
- Academies for After School Learning (Ravenswood City School District)

SMCSBA will also award the first annual Emily Garfield Preventive Counseling Award to the "Counseling and Advocacy for Teens" program at Woodside High School (Sequoia Union High School District). The award was established through a grant from Youth Empowering Systems to honor local education pioneer Emily Garfield (see attached biography). .

"We are thrilled once again to celebrate the amazing work done in schools across this county," said Shelly Masur, President of the San Mateo County School Boards Association and Governing Board Member of the Redwood City School District. "Despite the awful financial conditions for public education in this state, San Mateo County continues to lead with innovative and impactful programs for students. We are very excited to honor these teachers and administrators who dedicate their lives to serving children."

More information about the Kent Awards presentation and banquet and the SMCSBA can be found at <http://www.smcsba.org>.

About the San Mateo County School Boards Association

The San Mateo County School Boards Association represents the 22 school districts, the Community College District and County Office of Education in San Mateo County, California. SMCSBA supports the governance team -- school board trustees, superintendents and senior administrative staff --through education on critical public education issues and networking opportunities for its members. SMCSBA is a chapter of the California School Boards Association which is involved in developing, communicating and advocating the perspective of California school districts and county offices of education.

For more information or to schedule a press briefing, please contact:

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EMILY GARFIELD BACKGROUNDER

Emily Garfield, Ph.D. was a pioneer in the field of Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention. She was a Research Associate at Stanford University and worked on the Drugs, Crime and Community Studies research project in the 1960's. From the research findings she developed the D-E-C-I-D-E curriculum, a K-12 drug education/decision making curriculum that was implemented in many schools and districts nationwide in the 1970's and 1980's. As founder and Executive Director of the non-profit agency, Project Pegasus, serving San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, she advocated and supported implementation of school- and community-based alcohol and drug prevention strategies and provided prevention education, training and consultation until it closed in 1985. Emily continued to work as an advocate, author, trainer, and consultant with National Training Associates and Youth Empowering Systems, Inc. She was a mentor and friend to numerous individuals, schools and communities in support of positive youth development and community wellness. She wrote and collaborated on many published articles and books and continued to be an active change agent in her community.