

2009 CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

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SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Presentation: Lance Izumi, President
Board of Governors

Tanna Thomas, Member
Board of Governors

Jack Scott, Chancellor
California Community Colleges

Paul Lanning, President/CEO
The Foundation for California Community Colleges

Issue

This item announces the five *Classified Employee of the Year Award* recipients for 2009, who represent the best of California's community college classified employees.

Background

The *Classified Employee of the Year Award* were established through a resolution at the May 2008 Board of Governors meeting. The Award is to be given out annually starting in May 2009 to honor community college classified employees who demonstrate the highest level of commitment to professionalism and community colleges. Recipients are nominated by members of their college/district community and endorsed by their local Board of Trustees. Award recipients are selected by representatives of the Board of Governors for California Community Colleges, the Chancellor's Office, and the Foundation for California Community College and must have a record of outstanding performance of professional activities, as well as a record of active participation on campus and beyond.

The *Classified Employee of the Year Award* is supported through a grant from the Foundation for California Community Colleges. Each recipient will receive a \$500 cash award and a commemorative plaque.

The 2009 Award Winners

Teresa Aronson, Yuba Community College District

Teresa Aronson is a Public Events Technician and has been with the district for 10 years. Teresa's level of professionalism is incomparable. She is the liaison with the Fine Arts Department and the community for organizing events at the Yuba College Theatre. Her creation of extremely artistic, high quality posters and programs that showcase the student talent, provide promotional pieces that are appealing to the public, and have resulted in increased performance attendance. Teresa created and designed the monthly *Yuba College Classified Schools Employee Association (CSEA) Focus Newsletter*, and helped establish and serves on a newly created committee entitled, the CSEA Samaritan's. The goal of this adhoc committee is to provide assistance for classified staff that are having financial difficulties. As a board member of the Yuba Sutter Regional Arts Council, Teresa has participated in many community outreach programs, which promote the arts and has donated over 250 volunteer hours in the last three years supporting the arts in the local community. In partnership with the *Yuba College Relay for Life* team, she designed the letterhead and provided fundraising assistance. In the words of her nominator, "Teresa is constantly asked to go above and beyond her regular duties and she always does so with a smile and a positive attitude. She is a very conscientious employee who takes great pride in her work and in being a CSEA member. She is loyal and trustworthy and I am proud to have her as both a member of my Public Relations/Marketing team and as a Yuba College employee." The Board of Governors, the Chancellor's Office and the Foundation for California Community Colleges is proud to recognize **Teresa Aronson** as a *2009 Classified Employee of the Year Award* winner.

Lori Bonilla, State Center Community College District

Lori Bonilla is the Public Information Officer at Reedley College and has been with the district for 16 years. No matter how busy she is, Lori has always maintained a commitment to student success. Lori has been instrumental in organizing many campus functions, creating flyers, brochures and announcements for students, staff, and faculty, keeping everyone informed and involved in events throughout the district. She has organized *Kaleidoscope*, Reedley College's annual open house, for 11 years. Since 2002, she has been involved with the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, held annually at the Reedley College track. In memory of her father she has served as committee co-chair, program and photography chair, and as the 2007 cancer survivor activities chair. The Reedley Relay for Life has raised more than \$150,000 in the past few years to help fund cancer research, education, and patient services. Much of this success is due to Lori's involvement and her encouragement of Reedley College staff and student participation. In the words of her nominator, "Lori Bonilla has the qualities and attributes one would find embodied in such a prestigious award. Not only is she one of the top professionals in her area of expertise, but she is a kind and generous spirit. Her positive attitude and willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty make her deserving of this honor." The Board of

Governors, the Chancellor's Office and the Foundation for California Community Colleges is proud to recognize **Lori Bonilla** as a *2009 Classified Employee of the Year Award* winner.

Barbara Daley, San Mateo County Community College District

Barbara Daley is a Library Support Specialist at Skyline College. She has been with the district for nearly 24 years. Throughout her departmental and campus activities, Barbara has consistently proved to be an outstanding employee who makes important contributions to student and staff morale, to academic enrichment and lifelong learning, and to community connections and spirit. In a position that requires close attention to detail, she excels in all areas, whether it involves creating a Library of Congress call number, typing a spine label, or covering the circulation counter. Barbara became a founding member of Skyline's Museum of Tolerance (MOT) Alumni group, whose mission is to foster tolerance by demonstrating model qualities, speaking out when witnessing examples of intolerance, celebrating diversity, and supporting other groups at Skyline in their efforts to advocate for diversity. Barbara's community activities include serving as a juror for documentaries for both the San Francisco International Film Festival and the United Nations Association Film Festival, which focuses on human rights issues. In the words of her nominator "Barbara Daley is a keystone member of the Library, the college and the community. She is thoroughly dedicated, and a wonderful colleague, who goes about her work with enthusiasm and a good sense of humor, the latter quality being one whose significance should not be discounted." The Board of Governors, the Chancellor's Office and the Foundation for California Community Colleges is proud to recognize **Barbara Daley** as a *2009 Classified Employee of the Year Award* winner.

Connie Litz, Feather River Community College District

Connie Litz is an Administrative Assistant in Student Services and has been with the district for 30 years. Because of her skills, experience and knowledge, Connie plays a major leadership role on various committees and projects. In summer of 2008, she saw the need to help students locate housing in the area. Together with the college's webmaster, she developed an online housing board. That board is now accessible on the college's website and students can access what is available anywhere in the area. When Feather River College implemented a new student information system, Connie took on a leadership role in helping both students and staff learn to use this new tool. She enjoys working on the student services side of the community college system because it includes personal interaction with students and the opportunity to assist them in achieving their goals. Connie's community involvement is extensive and includes volunteering with the Portola Preschool, the Plumas Sierra Counties Special Olympics, Project Santa Claus and Sober Grad (for Potola High School). In the words of Connie's supervisor, "I do not treat Connie as an assistant, but as a colleague. She has my utmost respect and admiration. She is the most professional and knowledgeable person I have ever met. She does what a job takes and never asks why. She is there no matter how many hours it takes. She is Feather River College!" The Board of Governors, the Chancellor's Office and the Foundation for California Community

Colleges is proud to recognize **Connie Litz** as a *2009 Classified Employee of the Year Award* winner.

Wesley J. Page, Yosemite Community College District

Wesley (Wes) J. Page is a Video/Media Production Specialist at Modesto Junior College (MJC) and has been with the district for 37 years. Wes is one of MJC's number one "ambassadors" both on campus as a videographer and photographer, and in the community through his volunteerism and the many community services he has provided. His services are highly sought after on campus. His videos are used for instructional purposes, enhancing communication at campus wide events, and for motivating and recognizing accomplishments by the students and staff. Wes has served on planning committees for numerous special events including annual Institute Days, Women of Distinction Luncheons, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorations. He has worked on major events featuring guest speaker including Maya Angelou, Yolanda King, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Robert Kennedy, Jr. Wes is currently working with the Chancellor Roe Darnell on a series of short video spots that will demonstrate the importance of maintaining state funding for community colleges during hard economic times. Off campus he volunteers as an usher at the Gallo Center for the Performing Arts, participates with the local Star Wars Storm Troopers group that has donated appearances to raise money for the MJC Foundation, and the Salvation Army Red Kettle drive. On a personal level, Wes is devoted to his niece with multiple sclerosis and maintains daily contact with a former MJC employee who suddenly became blind and assists with his Internet contacts and many other personal needs. When Wes learned that elderly and handicapped patrons of the McHenry Mansion were unable to tour the 2nd floor of this historic Victorian mansion, he created a video tour of the entire building that was accompanied by music and interesting facts for these patrons to enjoy. In the words of his nominator, "Wes is respected and beloved by everyone who have the pleasure of working with him both on and off campus. Speak with him briefly and it quickly becomes obvious that Wes firmly believes in the purpose and the important part community colleges play in education and in bettering our communities." The Board of Governors, the Chancellor's Office and the Foundation for California Community Colleges is proud to recognize **Wesley J. Page** as a *2009 Classified Employee of the Year Award* winner.

Conclusion

These five recipients of the *2009 Classified Employee of the Year Award* will be recognized by the Board of Governors.