

NEWS RELEASE

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2017 Stanislaus County Teachers of the Year Announced

The Modesto Rotary Club and the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) announced the selection of four local educators as **2017 Stanislaus County Teacher of the Year** at a Rotary luncheon on **May 2**. In addition, a **Jane Johnston Civility Award** was presented to one of the 12 finalists for exemplifying the principles of civility.

Teachers were nominated by their principals and finalists were selected from 83 nominees representing 16 school districts in Stanislaus County. A selection committee, composed of local Rotarians and educators, narrowed the nominations through a paper screening process and then visited the classrooms of 24 semi-finalists before narrowing it down to the 12 finalists.

The 2017 Teachers of the Year are: **Andrea Cadrett** from *Agnes Baptist Elementary School* in the Empire Union School District – TK-3 division; **Craig Tornquist** from *Sinclear Elementary School* in the Ceres Unified School District – 4-6 division; **Jennifer Anderson** from *Somerset Middle School* in the Sylvan Union School District – junior high division; and **Laura Brem** from *Pitman High School* in the Turlock Unified School District – high school division.

The four selected as Teachers of the Year each received a \$1,000 cash award from the Modesto Rotary Club Foundation and a \$700 Nasco gift card. Mocse Credit Union also sponsored the event and provided funding for the awards, decorations and lunch for the student entertainers.

The **Jane Johnston Civility Award** was presented to **Efrain Barron** from *Walnut Grove K-8 School* in the Patterson Unified School District. The Civility Award is in honor of former SCOE Assistant Superintendent Jane Johnston, who helped launch the county-wide Choose Civility Initiative in 2010 and passed away unexpectedly in April 2012. Johnston was a member of the Modesto Rotary Club, co-chaired the Teacher of the Year Program, and was active with the Education Foundation of Stanislaus County. “Jane was an exceptional model of

civility at work and in our community,” said Education Foundation Chairperson Pam Denney. “The Education Foundation once again honored her memory with this award.”

The 2017 Teachers of the Year Finalists included:

<u>ELEMENTARY (TK-3) LEVEL</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>
Andrea Cadrett	Agnes Baptist Elementary	Stanislaus Union
Stephanie deVisser	Eisenhut Elementary	Stanislaus Union
Alissa Giva	Crossroads Elementary	Sylvan Union
<u>ELEMENTARY (4-6) LEVEL</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>
Efrain Barron	Walnut Grove K-8	Patterson Unified
Stacy Oldfield	Cunningham Elementary	Turlock Unified
Craig Tornquist	Sinclear Elementary	Ceres Unified
<u>MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>
Jennifer Anderson	Somerset Middle	Sylvan Union
Michelle Blaze	Hickman Middle	Hickman Community Charter
David Howard	Cardozo Middle	Riverbank Unified
<u>HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>
Laura Brem	Pitman High	Turlock Unified
Brandon Fromm	Downey High	Modesto City
Kelly Larson	Hughson High	Hughson Unified

This is the 19th year that Modesto Rotary and SCOE have joined efforts to honor teachers in Stanislaus County. The program not only honors local teachers and celebrates excellence in education, but also provides an opportunity for teachers to receive state and national recognition. Two of the four Teachers of the Year will be selected, through an interview process, to represent Stanislaus County in the State Teacher of the Year Program. One state winner then proceeds to the national level.

“A good teacher inspires students, ignites imaginations, and instills a love of learning,” said County Superintendent Tom Changnon. “It is truly an honor to partner with the Rotary to recognize these outstanding teachers – each who helps inspire and shape the lives of young students in our county on a daily basis.”

Sponsors of the Stanislaus County Teacher of the Year program include the Modesto Rotary Club Foundation, Stanislaus County Office of Education, Nasco and Mocse Credit Union.