

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces: TCOE'S Darlynn Billingsley Wins State Professional Award Association of California School Administrators to Present Honor November 4, 2005

Every member of the educational team plays an important role in the development of students - from those behind the scenes to those on the front lines. For her work behind the scenes, the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) has named Darlynn Billingsley, administrative assistant to the Tulare County Superintendent of Schools, as the 2005 Confidential Employee of the Year. On November 4, she will be honored at the State ACSA Conference in Sacramento. Ms. Billingsley has been an active member of the ACSA organization — not only at the county and regional levels but has served on the State ACSA Classified Education Leaders (CEL) committee.

Ms. Billingsley was selected for the honor over candidates from ACSA's more than 200 charter organizations and 19 regional chapters. She was cited for her leadership in providing ongoing learning opportunities for classified/confidential management staff. For example, in 1992, she helped organize the first Tulare County Support Staff Conference. The conference has since grown from attracting 75 people the first year to nearly 500 in the spring of 2005.

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She is also responsible for coordinating the annual Tulare County Excellence in Education Awards recognition program — a responsibility given to her by County Superintendent Vidak ten years ago. In addition, she coordinates numerous other events, conferences and meetings for Mr. Vidak, including: the annual Fall Institute for Tulare County School Board Members, the annual Summer Institute for school administrators and the annual Educators of the Year/Confucius' Birthday Celebration held in conjunction with the Central California Chinese Cultural Center. Darlynn also assists the Tulare County School Boards Association with its scholarship program and newsletter publication, *The Board Communiqué*. She wrote a booklet on telephone etiquette entitled *The Art of Interpersonal Communication*, and presents workshops based on its teachings.

Darlynn enjoys every aspect of her job. "The role of clerical staff has evolved over the years. You have to be educated and knowledgeable in your 'craft,' possess good communication skills and go in many directions at once," she says. "It takes a special person, and everyone in that role should be proud of what they do."

On the ACSA honor Jim Vidak says: "Darlynn is most deserving. She is outstanding in her role and champions the work of support staff in the field of education." For further information contact Robert Herman at 733-6606.

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