

# Monterey County Office of Education

Farewell to Friends Reception

&

“Light the Fire Within”  
Awards Ceremony

June 11, 2009

# Retirees of 2009

## (Attending the Farewell to Friends, June 11, 2009)



Barbara Cota, Migrant Education; Patricia Nofziger, Administration and Business; Harry Powell, Instructional Support and Technology; Judy Nejasmich, Alternative Education; Patricia Westcott, Special Education; Jerry Zimmer and Dr. Adrienne Meckel, Instructional Support and Technology; Carolyn Inouye, Special Education  
Unable to attend the reception; Joy Bower and Karen Lorentzen, Administration and Business; Nancy Midcalf, Head Start; Marilyn Ramirez, Instructional Support and Technology; Jim Baggese, Deidra Lunn, George Ragan and Rose Triplett, Special Education

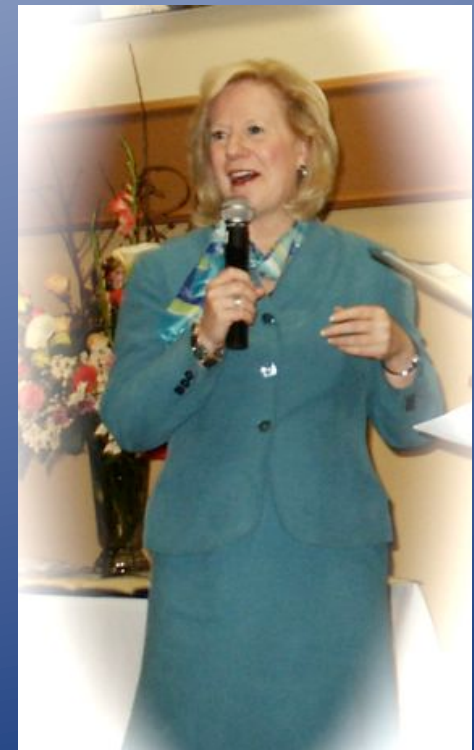
# Monterey County Office of Education

Dr. Nancy Kotowski, Monterey County  
Superintendent of Schools

Opening remarks  
Farewell to Friends Reception

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# Administration & Business



Patricia Nofziger

*WHEREAS*, a highly motivated professional accountant with experience in public agency accounting and budgeting procedures, PATRICIA NOFZIGER began her professional career with the Monterey County Office of Education in January 1998; and

*WHEREAS*, having previously worked for the Pacific Grove Unified School District as the District's Accountant, and with 9 years of experience in the private sector accountancy, PATRICIA NOFZIGER stepped nimbly into her new role with the self-confidence and professionalism she displayed throughout her career; and

*WHEREAS*, detailed orientated, dedicated, meticulous in her planning, and with a battery of comprehensive knowledge, PATRICIA NOFZIGER has well and professionally served the Monterey County Office of Education and the school districts of the County:

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* that the Monterey County Board of Education does hereby adopt Resolution of Commendation Number 08-09-55 to recognize and applaud PATRICIA NOFZIGER for her service to the Monterey County Office of Education and the students of Monterey County and, upon the occasion of her retirement, does wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

# Alternative Education



Judy Nejasnich

*WHEREAS*, since October 1999 JUDY NEJASMICH has worked with the Monterey County Office of Education's Alternative Education Program as an Instructional Paraprofessional, working directly with students, and often with students in need of specialized instruction, providing one-on-one tutoring, assisting with classroom management and providing instructional assistance; and

*WHEREAS*, following a career in accountancy, JUDY NEJASMICH decided to devote herself to a new profession, where she has proven herself to be personable and possessing of the ability to know students as individuals and provide them with the support and nurturing they need and desire:

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* that the Monterey County Board of Education does hereby adopt Resolution of Commendation Number 08-09-54 to recognize and applaud JUDY NEJASMICH for her service to the Monterey County Office of Education and the students of Monterey County and, upon the occasion of her retirement, does wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

# Instructional Support & Technology



Adrienne Meckel

*WHEREAS*, it is rare to have the opportunity to work with someone that possesses the wealth of academic and administrative expertise as Dr. ADRIENNE MECKEL, an individual who is an energetic, innovative, dedicated professional and who inspires colleagues and teachers as they engage in professional endeavors to enhance their careers and abilities; and

*WHEREAS*, since joining the Monterey County Office of Education in May 1993, Dr. ADRIENNE MECKEL has continuously demonstrated her personal commitment and her overall and ongoing concern for the status of the education profession; and

*WHEREAS*, as University Adjunct Faculty, Director, Coordinator/ Administrator and Consultant, Dr. ADRIENNE MECKEL has been an outstanding leader and professional development facilitator, gifted in assisting individuals and groups in problem solving, consistently committed to engaging all stakeholders in planning and decision-making, and always sensitive to the needs of others; she is collaborative and inclusive in helping people feel valued both professionally and personally:

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* that the Monterey County Board of Education does hereby adopt Resolution of Commendation Number 08-09-53 to recognize and applaud Dr. ADRIENNE MECKEL for her service to the Monterey County Office of Education and the students of Monterey County and, upon the occasion of her retirement, does wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

# Instructional Support & Technology

*WHEREAS*, beginning his career as an elementary teacher, HARRY POWELL was an early participant in the arena of technology and enthusiastically embraced the potential of the computer and its applications in the classroom and to learning; and

*WHEREAS*, as a teacher, site administrator, college instructor, district coordinator, consultant, resource teacher and coordinator/administrator HARRY POWELL has always thought ahead to the power of advanced technology and its ability to motivate students and enhance every curricular area; and

*WHEREAS*, as a result of his efforts, educators throughout California now have access to a variety of the highest quality course-enhancing administrative, instructional, and communications tools, and students benefit from HARRY POWELL'S promotion of school and district plans for instructional technology that are driven by curricular goals and instructional reform initiatives:

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* that the Monterey County Board of Education does hereby adopt Resolution of Commendation Number 08-09-56 to recognize and applaud HARRY POWELL for his service to the Monterey County Office of Education and the students of Monterey County and, upon the occasion of his retirement, does wish him well in all of his future endeavors.



Harry Powell

# Instructional Support & Technology

*WHEREAS*, after assisting the Instructional Media Department of the Monterey County Office of Education as contract labor for 16 years, GERALD ZIMMER officially joined the staff in June 1993 to help maintain the translators and microwave system of M.C.O.E.'s educational television service; and

*WHEREAS*, when joining M.C.O.E. GERALD ZIMMER brought with him over 20 years of experience in electrical engineering and the maintenance, repair and testing of television equipment, contributing to his work the knowledge and skills needed to create and maintain an effective, modern television broadcast system.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* that the Monterey County Board of Education does hereby adopt Resolution of Commendation Number 08-09-62 to recognize and applaud GERALD ZIMMER for his service to the Monterey County Office of Education and the students of Monterey County and, upon the occasion of his retirement, does wish him well in all of his future endeavors .



Jerry Zimmer

# Migrant Education



Barbara Cota

*WHEREAS*, since August 1983, BARBARA COTA has served the Migrant Education students of Monterey County with distinction, honor and dedication in a range of positions that performed the vital task of tracking the Program's students and maintaining their electronic records; and

*WHEREAS*, prior to joining the Monterey County Office of Education, BARBARA COTA served the Salinas Union High School District as an Instructional Assistant and Counseling Clerk gaining an understanding of the public education system and the unique needs of migrant students; and

*WHEREAS*, since her formal retirement in December 2008, BARBARA COTA has continued to serve the Monterey County Office of Education and the students of Migrant Education Region XVI as a short term and substitute employee, continuing to share her skills and knowledge with her fellow staff members:

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* that the Monterey County Board of Education does hereby adopt Resolution of Commendation Number 08-09-63 to recognize and applaud BARBARA COTA for her service to the Monterey County Office of Education and the students of Monterey County and, upon the occasion of her retirement, does wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

# Special Education

*WHEREAS*, in 1983 CAROLYN INOUYE came to the Monterey County Special Education Local Plan Area as a Secretary II where she rose to the position of Director's Secretary and served until she transferred to the Special Education Division in 2008; and

*WHEREAS*, in addition to her skills and the quality of her work, CAROLYN INOUYE possessed the ability to make students, parents and her co-workers feel special, appreciated and important; and

*WHEREAS*, with a wonderful sense of humor, CAROLYN INOUYE created a work climate that was honest, trust worthy and cooperative and motivates those around her through her pleasing smile and engaging demeanor:

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* that the Monterey County Board of Education does hereby adopt Resolution of Commendation Number 08-09-48 to recognize and applaud CAROLYN INOUYE for her service to the Monterey County Office of Education and the students of Monterey County and, upon the occasion of her retirement, does wish her well in all of her future endeavors .



Carolyn Inouye

# Special Education

**WHEREAS**, as a teacher of the severely disabled with the Monterey County Office of Education since November 2000, PATRICIA WESTCOTT established a classroom environment that was accepting and conducive to meeting the needs of her students, and one where all staff incorporated specialized techniques in working with students with severe disabilities in order for every student to be treated with respect; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning her career as a lower elementary grade teacher in Cedar Falls, Iowa PATRICIA WESTCOTT gained wide experience and training before coming to California to serve as a Special Education Teacher in San Mateo and Burlingame; and

**WHEREAS**, for 18 years, PATRICIA WESTCOTT served as the Director of the Westcott Kindergarten and Child Care before making the decision to return to public education and join the staff of the Monterey County Office of Education:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Monterey County Board of Education does hereby adopt Resolution of Commendation Number 08-09-49 to recognize and applaud PATRICIA WESTCOTT for her service to the Monterey County Office of Education and the students of Monterey County and, upon the occasion of her retirement, does wish her well in all of her future endeavors.



Patricia Westcott

# "Light the Fire Within"



"Light the Fire Within"

The Monterey County  
Office of Education's

*Unsung Hero Award*

Presented to

**NATE DANIELSON**

a truly deserving individual  
who has given unselfishly  
of herself to the benefit  
of others

2009



The 2009 honoree is Special Education Teacher Nate Danielson.

Nate taught in regular education for 15 years before making the change to Special Education to help our autistic students. She has been the President and Treasurer of the PTA at River School in the Carmel Unified School District. She is active in the Naval Postgraduate School's Staff and Wives Club. She has been the President and Vice President of the Mal Paso Creek Homeowners' Association.

Nate helped start-up M.C.O.E.'s Special Education PTA, which is now known as the Special Kids Crusade. She regularly attends school districts' board meetings and PTA gatherings to she can stay on top of current issues. She is active in her women's bible study group and many other community organizations.

On the job, she has facilitated the reverse mainstreamed peers program at Carmel Middle School. She not only concentrates her efforts on helping and teaching autistic students, but in helping and teaching the parents of her students. Recently, she has been working on a methodology to guide and train parents on how to work with their children who have autistic and other developmental delays. She has a special love for her verbal autistic students. Her degrees include a B.A. and a M.A. in Speech Pathology with a Certification of Clinical Competence. She is constantly engaged in her own professional growth, often attending trainings at her own expense.

Her love of her students is boundless, and she attends every school function to stand up for them and to cheer them on.

Congratulations and Thank You to Nate Danielson, the 2009 "Light the Fire Within Award" honoree.

# Reception



Frank Garcia, Adam Gavalla, Information Technology;  
and Becki Hadley, Educational Services, CSEA  
President



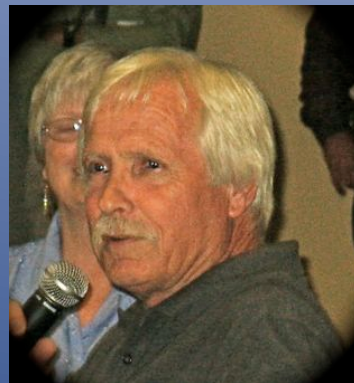
Cath Tandler-Valencia, Annette Campbell,  
Linda Yellich, Special Education; and  
Nancy Myers, SELPA



Marian "Mimi" Niesen,  
previously retired from  
Special Education



Steve Nejasmich, Educational Services  
and Judy Nejasmich, Alternative Education



Dale Bartoletti,  
Alternative Education



Scott Sexsmith, Information Technology,  
Interim Director; and Martina Sholiton,  
Assistant Superintendent, Special Education



Shirley Thompson,  
previously retired from  
Special Education