

May 15, 2009

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Parlier Unified Teacher Honored

A Parlier Unified teacher was honored last night, Thursday, May 15, 2009, at a dinner at the Holiday Inn to celebrate the graduation of 142 Beginning Teachers in the BTSA Induction Program (Beginning Teachers and Support and Assessment Program). **Rachel Navarro, from Parlier Junior High School**, was nominated and won the BTSA Support Provider of the Year Award for the Fresno County Office of Education. Suneet Jammu was the Beginning Teacher who nominated Rachel. According to Suneet, "When everything looked almost bleak, along came a blessing disguised as my support provider, Rachel Nararro. While I was still struggling to find the ground beneath my feet, BTSA dawned upon me."

The California Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Induction Program provides formative assessment, individualized support and advanced content for newly-credentialed, beginning teachers, and is the preferred pathway to a California Clear Teaching Credential. The BTSA Induction program is co-administered by the California Department of Education and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

Research has proven the need to provide beginning teachers with focused support which makes a difference in the performance, retention, and satisfaction of beginning teachers. FCOE BTSA Induction program has retained in teaching over 98% of the beginning teachers in the last five years. "Our high quality program is making a difference for the teachers and students of Fresno County," said Patty Lehman, Director of the FCOE BTSA Program.

For additional information, please contact Patty Lehman, Director, Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Induction (BTSA), Fresno County Office of Education at 497-3756.

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