



For Immediate Release
August 17, 2007

Information Contact:
Sheldon K. Smith, Ed.D.
805.237.3362 x209
ssmith@king.prps.k12.ca.us

TRUSTEES
Jeanne Dugger
Pat Johnson
Jay Packer
Joe E. Quiroz
Ruben Tate
Debi Saunders
Robert Simola, Ph.D.

Paso Robles Teacher Named County Teacher of the Year
*Paso Robles High School Teacher, Mark DiMaggio, named San Luis Obispo County
Teacher of the Year.*

Paso Robles High School Teacher, **Mark DiMaggio**, has been named as **San Luis Obispo County Teacher of the Year** by Julian Crocker, County Superintendent of Schools. Mark's name was submitted to the County Office for consideration after he was named Paso Robles Public Schools Teacher of the Year last April.

Mark DiMaggio has been with Paso Robles Public Schools since 1986. Dimaggio holds a Bachelors Degree from San Diego State University, a Masters of Science Degree from California Polytechnic State University-SLO and a California science teaching credential from Humboldt State University. DiMaggio came to Paso Robles from Ferndale, California where he taught grades 7-9 math and science at Ferndale Elementary School.

DiMaggio was nominated as the County teacher of the year because of his "learn by doing" approach with earth sciences utilizing ecological footprinting, shared with other science educators across North America, leading student backpacking trips to Big Sur and Zion National Park and his innovative field biology partnership with the Nature Conservancy and the Park Service. DiMaggio has taken over 1000 students to Zion National Park and Santa Cruz Island. DiMaggio also founded the Bearcat/Community Alliance for Sustainable Earth (BCASE) that involves students, staff, and community members for searching ecological and sustainable solutions for Paso Robles High School building and expansion projects.

DiMaggio, quoted in his description of the teaching profession, stated, "It is our generation's challenge to learn how to live well within the means of nature...it is part of my job as an earth and environmental science teacher to bring my students to an understanding of this reality."

DiMaggio works at Paso Robles High School, a Western Association of Schools & Colleges accredited comprehensive high school serving over 2200 students in Paso Robles Joint Unified School District.

- END -