

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: Friends of SCICON Present Annual Awards

On June 11, 2004, the Friends of SCICON (Clemmie Gill School of Science and Conservation), held its annual SCICON Awards Dinner. The dinner was held at the John Muir Dining Lodge on the SCICON campus. After a brief business meeting, the following individuals and organizations were recognized for their exceptional contributions and support of the SCICON program.

Receiving the *Laurel Leaf Awards* as the top high school cabin leaders of the year were **Montserrat Alejo**, of **Dinuba High School**, and **Gerardo Linares**, of **Citrus High School**. They were selected out of 850 high school students as being exemplary role models for the sixth-grade students at SCICON. In addition to their awards, they each received a scholarship from the Friends of SCICON to be applied towards college expenses.

The Friends of SCICON then presented *Awards of Merit* to the following individuals and

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organizations: **Myron Sheklian**, an area administrator for **Visalia Unified School District** recognized for his many years of support and assistance in helping Visalia students attend SCICON; **Joe Terri**, principal at **Cherry Avenue Middle School in Tulare** honored for his commitment to ensuring the success of sixth-grade students attending SCICON; **Jim Sullins**, county director for the **University of California Agricultural Cooperative Extension** recognized for his agency's support of SCICON projects; **Ed Martin** of **Lemoore High School** and **Joyce Rugeroni** of **Monache High School** recognized and thanked for their work in sending quality high school students to serve as cabin leaders at SCICON; and **Wayne Clark**, superintendent of Pixley Union School, accepted an award on behalf of **Pixley Union School** for the many years of support and service to SCICON. The **21st District PTA** was recognized for many years of supporting students attending SCICON. **Southern California Edison** was honored for its contributions and assistance on special projects at SCICON. The **Tulare County Sheriff's** office was recognized and thanked for the many years of assisting with and supporting the SCICON BBQ and Wildflower Festival. **Nancy Bruce**, education coordinator for the Tulare County Office of Education, was honored for her work in developing new student outdoor education programs at the Circle J – Norris Ranch.

“The diversity of students, teachers and community organizations receiving awards from the Friends of SCICON illustrates the support the program receives from all of Tulare County,” says Tulare

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County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “For decades, individuals and Tulare County communities – large and small – have given time and resources for the expansion and maintenance of this great school.”

For more information, contact Robert Herman, Public Information Officer, at 733-6606.

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