

For Immediate Release
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Manteca School Psychologist Honored by Statewide Association

Clarice Ward, the lead school psychologist with the Manteca Unified School District, was recently honored as the Outstanding School Psychologist for the Northern California Inland Region by the California Association of School Psychologists.

Ms. Ward is known throughout the district as the “go to” person when it comes to understanding the state and federal laws that govern special education. She has been given the charge of ensuring that the 26 school psychologists in the school district are kept up-to-date with continuing education opportunities and the latest in test kits used to assess students.

Joanne Baestreri, principal at Golden West School, wrote in Ms. Ward’s nomination papers that although school psychologists are not often called upon to counsel students, Ms. Ward is outstanding with “at-risk” students. For example, one student would not come to school because of a fear of the fire alarm, which seemed to be manifested by separation anxiety and depression. This fear frustrated his parents. But by meeting several times with the student and his parents, Ms. Ward was able to talk the boy, who became an honor student, into coming to school willingly every day.

Ms. Ward also assists with the recruitment of school psychologists for the district, monitors caseloads for the school psychologists, advocates for them on different levels and makes time for students, parents, teachers and district administration. A Manteca resident, she has worked at the school district for 20 years.

The California Association of School Psychologists (CASP) honors Outstanding School Psychologists from each of its 10 regions. Ms. Ward represented Region 10, which includes the area from San Joaquin County north to the Oregon border, east to the Nevada border and west to, but not including, the coastal counties.

CASP, with nearly 3,000 members, is the largest state association of school psychologists in the nation. For more than 55 years, CASP has advocated on behalf of all of California’s students. School psychologists offer student assessments, classroom management, program development for at-risk students and many other education and mental health services to schools and their communities.

For more information about school psychology, visit the CASP web site at www.casponline.org. For a photo of Ms. Ward, please contact Heidi Holmblad at communications@casponline.org.