

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Heidi Holmblad
916/444-1595
communications@casponline.org

Long Beach School Psychologist Honored by Statewide Association

Tom Sopp, school psychologist for the Long Beach Unified School District, was honored last week as the Outstanding School Psychologist for the Los Angeles County region by the California Association of School Psychologists (CASP).

One school psychologist from each of 10 regions receives the award every year for going far beyond his or her job description in assisting students, school communities and advancing the profession. Sopp was represented the best of the region that includes most of Los Angeles County, excluding the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Sopp was instrumental in saving the partnership between the school district and Connections Day Treatment Program, designed to transition adolescents and teens back to a comprehensive public school campus or to a residential treatment program for more mental health support after a crisis. He worked with the school district and mental health professionals on making appropriate referrals, using his background as a program counselor and program manager as a psychiatric hospital.

He also trains school psychologists, counselors, nurses and others on threat and suicide assessment. Sopp is also a member of the Los Angeles County Child & Adolescent Suicide Review Team, guiding the team on issues involving schools and parents in preventing suicidal behavior. A Redondo Beach resident, Sopp is also involved in the Long Beach area affiliate of CASP.

CASP, with 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 Tom Sopp, please contact Heidi Holmblad at communications@casponline.org.