

For Immediate Release  
May 7, 2007

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### **Chino School Psychologist Honored by Statewide Association**

Robert Soikkeli, Ph.D., chief school psychologist for the Chino Valley Unified School District, marriage and family therapist intern and Catholic Church deacon-in-training, was recently honored as the Outstanding School Psychologist for the Inland Empire region by the California Association of School Psychologists.

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.

Dr. Soikkeli became a school psychologist after working for years in the aerospace industry. As chief school psychologist, "Dr. Bob" has won the trust of students, their parents, teachers, and administrators and has seen many improvements in the district's special education program – and students – as a result.

Two parents praised Dr. Soikkeli for his personal involvement in their children's lives. One parent wrote in support of "Dr. Bob's" nomination that he meets with her conduct-disordered, sixth-grade honor student on a weekly basis and has given him a card that allows him to call "Dr. Bob" whenever he feels he needs his help. Parents of two autistic children said he assisted them through the system to receive the services their children need. A teach also stated that "Dr. Bob" meets with one of her students, who shows a lack of anger control, one morning a week for breakfast and basketball, and to talk about whatever is troubling the student. The student, whose family had declined counseling services, has learned strategies to control his anger, which has significantly reduced the number of classroom outbursts. \*

Dr. Soikkeli also organizes continuing education programs for district staff members, has set up a training program for school psychology interns, works with the Chino Human Services Department and will be ordained this month. Dr. Soikkeli is a resident of Chino Hills.

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](http://www.casponline.org). For a photo of Dr. Soikkeli, please contact Heidi Holmblad at [communications@casponline.org](mailto:communications@casponline.org).

\* Names not used for privacy reasons.