



**For Immediate Release  
March 6, 2006**

**Contact: Heidi Holmblad  
CASP Communications  
916/444-1595**

### **Dawson Named Bay Area's Outstanding School Psychologist**

MONTEREY – Renee A. Dawson, assistant director of the Diagnostic Center, Northern California, was named Outstanding School Psychologist for the San Francisco Bay Region by the California Association of School Psychologists (CASP).

Each year CASP officially recognizes the outstanding work of school psychologists with its Outstanding School Psychologist award. Only practicing school psychologists who provide direct service to students, teachers, parents, or community agencies may receive this recognition. Nominated by their peers, one school psychologist in each of CASP's 10 regions receives the award at the association's annual convention, held in late February in Monterey. The San Francisco Bay Region includes Alameda, Contra Costa, Monterey, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties.

As the assistant director at the Fremont-based Diagnostic Center, Dawson supervises and leads a team of highly qualified school psychologists; provides educational and psychological assessments to Northern California's most difficult-to-serve special education students; serves on local and statewide committees and work groups; coaches and mentors teachers and school psychologists; provides classes on working with secondary-aged, special education students; provides technical and assistance and consultation services; and provides resource assistance, consultation, and support to students and families.

In addition, Dawson developed and coordinates the Diagnostic Center's "Ask a Specialist" web page, which provides current information and resources on behavior, secondary and transition issues, ADHD and medical issues related to education; authored *A Parent's Guide to Transition*, an online class for parents of special education students about to leave the school system; co-authored the *High School Transition Portfolio* and *Middle School Portfolio* and study guides; and many other publications and programs that focus on older special education students and related issues.

A resident of Oakland, Dawson led the effort to develop and adopt a culturally and age appropriate curriculum for 18-22 year olds with moderate to severe impairments and is a member of a task force focusing on culturally relevant assessment practices. She provides classes for teachers, staff and administrators, and also teaches graduate level courses for National University and John F. Kennedy University

The California Association of School Psychologists, with more than 3,000 members, is the largest state association of school psychologists in the nation. For more than 50 years, CASP has advocated on behalf of all of California's students.

NOTE: A photo of Renee Dawson is available by email. Call the number above or email Heidi Holmblad at [communications@casponline.org](mailto:communications@casponline.org).