

# news

Winter 2002

Santa Barbara, California

Volume 19, Number 2



## Chris Mullin: California State Teacher of Year!

**C**hris Mullin, a teacher of History and Latin at Santa Ynez High, was named a **California State Teacher of the Year**. He joins four other colleagues from across the state to hold the coveted state honor this year.

"He is absolutely outstanding in every way and that view was shared by all on the selection committee, including previous state teachers of the year," said a spokesperson from the state department.



## Maribel wins a Milken

*Maribel Garcia, a second grade teacher at Adam School in Santa Maria-Bonita, is congratulated by Milken Family Foundation executive vice president Richard Sandler after the surprise announcement that she had won the \$25,000 award, one of only 100 given nationwide. Story, page 3.*

## Seven county teachers named MetLife Fellows

**S**even Santa Barbara County teachers were chosen as MetLife Fellows in the Teachers Network Policy Institute (TNPI), an honor shared by 100 exemplary public school teachers from across the nation.

Santa Barbara's MetLife Fellows for the 2002-03 school year are: Sandra Bravo, Guadalupe; Leslie Gravitz, Carpinteria; Mike Jackson, Santa Maria-Bonita; Harriet Levine, Goleta; Chris Mullin and Connie Rohde-Stanchfield, Santa Ynez High; and Linda Wiezorek, Lompoc. Administrator Jerry Swanitz, of Santa Ynez High School, acts in the capacity of Advisory Fellow.

Please see "MetLife Fellows," p. 12

From the desk of

***Bill Cirone, County Superintendent of Schools***

## Saluting a personal hero: John W. Gardner

We all have personal heroes. We have people in our lives who touched us in a way that inspired us to be better, to be stronger, to strive higher. In my life, John W. Gardner was such a man.

As I begin my sixth term of office this January, making me the longest-serving county superintendent currently holding office in California, I'd like to dedicate this term to the man who will always stand, for me, as the role model and benchmark for integrity and dignity. His death this past February leaves a void that may never again be filled. Let me explain.

As President Lyndon Johnson's secretary of health, education, and welfare from 1965 to 1968, Mr. Gardner is widely considered an architect of the educational and social programs of the Great Society.

His department enforced educational compliance with the protections against racial discrimination set by the Civil Rights Act of 1964. What's more, he helped secure the passage of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, creating the Title I act for disadvantaged students. Mr. Gardner was also instrumental in starting the Medicare program and public television.

A famous quote of his at the time captures his vision and enthusiasm. He said, "What we have before us are some breathtaking opportunities disguised as insoluble problems."

With a deep grasp of the paradoxes in American society, Mr. Gardner had the unique ability to cut to the chase, as evidenced by another famous Gardner quote: "Freedom and responsibility, liberty and duty: that's the deal."

I first met John Gardner when my wife Barbara and I lived in Atlanta, shortly after John Gardner founded Common Cause, a citizens' advocacy organization that has pushed for campaign finance changes and open records laws.

Barbara and I became Georgia Common Cause co-chairs and through the years Mr. Gardner provided encouragement,

support, inspiration, and practical advice. Twenty years later, shortly after Mr. Gardner founded the Independent Sector, a Washington-based nonprofit organization that promotes volunteerism and community involvement, I was at a turning point in my career and sought his counsel. He encouraged me to run for county superintendent in Santa Barbara.

Both during the campaign and after the election, Gardner was always available, providing counsel and support. He visited us in Santa Barbara and included a reference to our work in his book, *On Leadership*.

As a birthday present to me in 1980, Barbara gave me one of my favorite John Gardner quotes, which she wrote in calligraphy. It is still on display in my office and it remains the guiding principle of our work: "Put your faith in ideas, ideals, movements, goals. Don't put your faith in organizational forms. Human beings are forever building the church and killing the creed."

For the past 10 years, Mr. Gardner was a professor of public service at Stanford University, where he also taught in the university's school of education. He continued working and contributing tirelessly until he passed away last February. As Donald Kennedy wrote in a tribute: "What a life, what a legacy, what an uncommon man."

In celebration of his life, his inspiration to me personally, and the legacy he has left for millions of others, I dedicate this new term to him. In doing so, I pledge to continue to share Gardner's deep commitment to children—to their education, their well-being, and their future as members of a caring society. I pledge to work tirelessly, in the spirit of my personal mentor and hero, to reward the trust and confidence the community has placed in me for so many years.

***Where's your school's news?***

Send your school's news to the NEWS editor, Wendy Shelton, at the SBCEO, by mail, by truck, or by e-mail: [wshelton@sbceo.org](mailto:wshelton@sbceo.org). Deadline for next issue: **April 18.**

# Second SM-B teacher wins Milken

Adam School 2nd grade teacher Maribel Garcia was astonished to learn in October that she had been selected as a Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award recipient and would receive a \$25,000 award.

The surprise announcement was made during a special assembly at Adam School in the Santa Maria-Bonita School District.

Dubbed the “Oscars of Teaching” by Teacher Magazine, the Milken National

Educator Award is one of the most prestigious honors in the country. Only 100 awards are given each year.

Garcia was shocked by the announcement. The school’s staff and students had only been told that representatives from the California Department of Education were visiting Adam to recognize the school for its quality educational efforts.

“It feels like a dream,” Garcia said after the announcement. “But it’s more

than just the money. I felt really honored to be chosen.” Garcia said she also feels a little embarrassed. “There are so many other teachers who work hard and deserve this kind of recognition,” she explained.

Adam School principal Dr. Claudia Mackey nominated Garcia for the award. Garcia has taught at Adam School since 1999 and has been with SMBSD since 1997. SMBSD teacher Carmen Candelaria also won the Milken Family Foundation Award in 1994.



Writers all -- from left, Nora Desruisseaux, teacher Charles Clouse, James Pinney, and Elizabeth Romero. John Faulkner also won the award.

## DP students have ‘write’ stuff

Dos Pueblos High School English teacher Charles Clouse was delighted to learn that four Dos Pueblos students were chosen by the National Council of

Teachers of English (NCTE) as winners of the 2002 NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing.

NCTE sponsors the annual competition for high school juniors. The Dos

Pueblos students, now seniors, who won the prestigious award were: Nora Desruisseaux, John Faulkner, James Pinney, and Elizabeth Romero.

“This is unbelievable! The last winner we had was three years ago. This recognition is a tremendous accomplishment for these students,” said DP Principal David Cash.

Clouse added, “It is a great honor for a school to have one winner at all. It is absolutely unheard of to have four winners from one school!” He added that throughout the past 25 years, Dos Pueblos has had approximately 16 NCTE winners.

According to Clouse, who nominated the four entrants, students submit two examples of their writing; one example of their work is prepared and polished, usually from a previous class assignment, and the second written under time constraint in response to an NCTE topic/prompt.

Winners receive a certificate, national recognition, and the right to include this academic accomplishment on their college applications.

## QAD, TeachNet form partnership



*QAD representatives, from left, Gary Clark, Kathy Burford, and Cheli Hidalgo, are involved with the partnership.*

**Q**AD, Inc. of Carpinteria has become the prime local sponsor of TeachNet in Santa Barbara County. Gary Clark, Cheli Hidalgo, and Kathy Burford were on hand at the annual Teachers Network Curriculum Fair in early October representing QAD, Inc. and this major new partnership.

“TeachNet is a program for K-12 public school educators interested in developing, digitizing, and disseminating web-based curriculum materials,” explained County Superintendent Bill Cirone in announcing the new partnership.

“TeachNet mentors help teachers integrate web-based lessons into the classroom as a way to improve student learning. Classroom teachers gain access to curriculum and technical specialists, grants, and a supportive network to further develop their skills,” he said.

QAD’s sponsorship provides stipends for the Santa Barbara County TeachNet Mentors, who each produce two comprehensive curriculum units that fully incorporate web technology.

TeachNet mentors are currently active at seven of the Teachers Network affiliate sites: New York City, Boston, Miami, Santa Barbara, Westchester, NY, Wiscasset, ME, and Ireland.

### **2002-2003 Santa Barbara County TeachNet Mentors:**

- Jeff Foote, Guadalupe Union School District
- Martha McIntyre, Carpinteria Unified School District
- Ann D’Angelo Orton, Santa Maria-Bonita School District
- Michael Orton, Santa Maria-Bonita School District
- Petti Pfau, Solvang School District
- Jessica Rivera, Santa Maria-Bonita School District

Further information is available by contacting Carol Gregor, director of teacher programs and support, at 964-4711, ext. 5281.

## Tolerance Center seeking volunteers

**T**he Beyond Tolerance Educational Center is seeking volunteers to present its programs to classes. Interested individuals are asked to call Adele Rosen at (805) 898-2700.

The Center began in 1998. The concept was inspired by the success and interest in the Anne Frank exhibit that had visited Santa Barbara in 1997. Under the umbrella of the County Education Office, Beyond Tolerance offers educational programs that help teach children from second grade through high school, that hate hurts and, encourages them to walk away from and even speak out against inappropriate, insensitive behaviors.

The programs consist of in-class, interactive curriculums that inform on subjects such as immigration and the holocaust and how they relate, in some way, to students’ lives every day.

In addition, there are field trips to the museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles and multimedia performances by “Living Voices,” in which an actor interacts with video footage of stories of young people in history.

The success of these programs has been inspirational. The students have responded with great enthusiasm and a thirst for knowing more.

It has also taught the volunteers and educators who bring these programs to life, that there is every reason to believe that the message of tolerance and acceptance is an invaluable one that can make a difference in open, young minds.

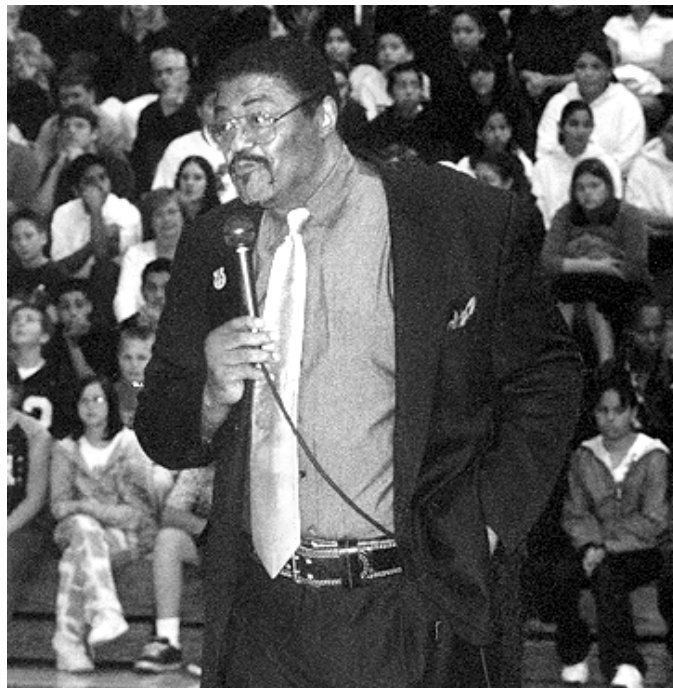
## Rosey Grier speaks and sings for students

Former pro-football player Rosey Grier treated hundreds of North County students to a motivational talk and song during a choir performance at Allan Hancock College in October.

The junior high and high school students were gathered at AHC to hear the sensational Washington Preparatory Choir perform as part of a Peace Week-sponsored event.

Grier, who had been the keynote speaker at the Peace Week Community Breakfast earlier, encouraged students to believe in themselves and to follow their dreams.

He used personal anecdotes to explain to students that even when they are feeling uncomfortable or self-conscious, there is courage inside of them to make the right decisions or do the right thing. His song included the same important message.



*Former NFL linebacker Rosey Grier speaks to students from various North County schools, during Peace-Week activities.*

## San Marcos launches Operation Heartbeat

**O**peration Heartbeat, a comprehensive cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) program, was launched at San Marcos High School's new Health Academy in November.

Health Academy teacher Marcene Newman and CPR-certified students Rose Ortega and Aaron Saperstein instructed a classroom of students on resuscitation techniques, using up to 30 training mannequins.

District health assistant Debbie Walberg, a certified CPR and first aid instructor, was on hand to observe the training session.

Operation Heartbeat, funded through a grant from the American

Heart Association, was designed to teach CPR to all students at San Marcos, Santa Barbara, and Dos Pueblos high schools.

In the initial certification class, which took place in October, teachers from the three high schools were trained. San Marcos students Ortega and Saperstein were trained as part of a peer module. Grant funds were used to secure the training mannequins and two practice defibrillators for each of the three high school campuses, tools that will enable students to become familiar with lifesaving methods and machinery.

Sue Dachenhaus, Health Academy director, stated, "This training is a

great opportunity for our students and faculty. Ultimately, our goal will be to train the entire student population. CPR fits well with the mission of the school's Health Academy. Students will learn adult and infant CPR as well as the Heimlich maneuver. I want to convey to students the importance of a healthy lifestyle; to educate them on how to save a life; and to familiarize them with health as a profession."

San Marcos High School senior Rose Ortega added, "I'm really excited to be a part of this program because it provides me with the ability to spread knowledge that could save the lives of my peers, family, and friends."

# Kindergartners



In October, 320 kindergarten students from Santa Maria, Orcutt and Guadalupe converged on the Allan Hancock College campus and spent the morning learning about careers.

Students from the Class of 2017 (their community college graduation year) representing 11 area schools traveled to Allan Hancock College for KinderCareer—a “career day” designed especially for them.

This is the seventh time local kindergarten students have visited the college for their first career day experience. With AHC hats and nametags proclaiming their future jobs, the young students explored the campus.

Teachers from the college and community members from various professions hosted hands-on career

stations geared to each child's interest level.

that such careers are attainable through education.

The kindergartners explored a live lobster, a chef, a play musician, a conductor, and a physicist.

About 200 students and staff members made the college a comfortable place for the youngest elementary schoolers.

The special day was a first for the youngest elementary schoolers about a college career day.

KinderCareer was held at Allan Hancock College's Bonita School Building, Barbara Courthouse (North County)

PHOTOS BY MAGGIE WHITE

*Above, Santa Maria Fire Department engineer Dennis Szczepanski helps an Alvin School student handle a fire hose and water stream during KinderCareer.*

*At bottom center, a student from Mary Buren Elementary School keeps the beat during the music-themed career station.*

*At top right, registered nurse and Allan Hancock College instructor Julie Kuras uses a Tunnell School student to demonstrate how a breathing tube is inserted. The students learned about medical professions and other careers at the seventh KinderCareer event.*

*Also top right, Ceramics and Fine Arts instructor Bob Nichols shows off a plate he made on the pottery wheel while kindergarten students looked on.*

*At bottom right, Allan Hancock College physics instructor Erin O'Connor demonstrates the scientific properties of static electricity during the annual kindergarten career day at the college.*



# take over college

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# Election 2002 brings together old and new faces, and one new bond

Two former superintendents and one former assistant superintendent will join their colleagues on school boards following success at the polls in November.

Several incumbents were reelected, to be joined by many new faces on school boards countywide. In several

cases, incumbents were reelected without opposition. In some cases, not enough candidates ran to fill the vacancies and boards had to make appointments to fill the seats.

One of two school bonds was successful as well. A proposed parcel tax failed narrowly in Santa Ynez, while a school bond passed handily in Lompoc.

Administrators moving to elected

positions include Ken Milo, former superintendent of the Santa Maria-Bonita School District, who joins that board as a trustee; Dean Reece, retired superintendent of the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District, who joins that board; and retired assistant superintendent Roger Hill, who unseated incumbent Ellen Rojas as trustee for district No. 5 on the Santa Barbara County Board of Education.

## Board members elected in November

*SBCEO Board of Education*

Roger A. Hill

*Carpinteria Unified*

Mary McWhirter

Alex Pulido

*Cuyama Joint Unified*

William McBrien

Richard Ray

*Lompoc Unified*

Anne Bossert

Mary Ann Weyandt

*Santa Barbara Elementary/High*

Robert C. Noel

Lynn Rodriguez

*Santa Maria Joint Union*

Roger Ikola

Fred Miller

Dean Reece

*Cold Spring*

Timothy Eaton

Karen Phillips

Gene Raphaelian

*College*

James Sobell

*Guadalupe*

Cyndi Silver

David Solis Rodriguez

*Los Olivos*

Susan Brady

Sandie Mullin

Stan Roberts

Tresha M. Sell

*Montecito Union*

Robert M. Nagy

Theodore Philip Swift

*Orcutt Union*

Rob Buchanan

Steve Southwick

*Santa Maria Bonita*

Ken Milo

Jo Ann Oliver

*SBCEO Board of Education*

Bill Carty

William K. McDonald

*SBCC*

Kathryn Alexander

Joe W. Dobbs

Desmond O'Neill

Joyce H. Powell

*AHCC*

Carol Anders

Larry Lahr

*Carpinteria Unified*

John W. Franklin

*Santa Ynez Valley Union*

Ruth Garcia

Joan Jamieson

Holly Lindberg

*Ballard*

Curt K. Cragg

Alice K. McCurdy

*Blochman*

Shannon Clay

Thomas C. Gibbons

Peggy Salas

*Buellton Union*

Gerald Anderson

Marcilo Sarquilla

*College*

Debbie Goldsmith

Terry Espina Pagaling

Lissa Samuel

*Goleta Union*

Manor Buck

Richard E. Mayer

Jane Rudolph

*Hope*

Joseph Liebman

Michael W. Underwood

Steven A. Weintraub

*Los Alamos*

Eric Bratt

Cindy Cripe

Heather L. Hanly

Jean-Mark Rantz

Craig D. Snell

*Montecito Union*

Sunny George Crandell

*Solvang*

J.C. Chris Avery

Felix L. Fischer

*Vista del Mar*

Linda Fimlaid

**Appointments to be made in lieu of election**

# Conference covers civic mission of education

Despite airline delays that made his appearance dicey, Peter Yarrow, of Peter Paul and Mary, spoke and performed at a major conference on the Civic Mission of Education in Santa Barbara.

Key educators and community key leaders in the areas of civics education, character education, youth leadership, and service learning attended.

The premise of the conference—that engagement of young people in the community through curriculum creates better citizens—was based on the report, *Service Learn-*

*ing - Finding Common Ground*, published by the highly respected American Youth Policy Forum. The report is available for viewing online at [www.aypf.org/pubs.htm](http://www.aypf.org/pubs.htm).

“The conference was groundbreaking in that it is the first ever of its kind, serving as an umbrella for regional networking in a four-county area and bringing in renowned national speakers,” explained County Superintendent Bill Cirone, whose office co-sponsored and coordinated the conference.

Yarrow presented his “Don’t Laugh at Me” curriculum about bullying. The morning’s keynote speaker was Dr. Ginger Hovenic, president and CEO of The Chamber Foundation Business Roundtable for Education, based in San Diego. Her topic was “Finding Common Ground—Engaging Students in Citizenship.”

The breakout sessions covered civics education, youth leadership, service learning, and character education. There was also a showcase of more than 30 curriculum and program resources.

## Computers for Families

needs your unwanted computer!!

- **Pentium 166** and above
- **Power Macintosh 6100** and above
- **SVGA monitors** in working condition
- **Keyboards**
- **Mice**
- **Power Cords**

Your unwanted computer will be refurbished and donated to a child in the greater Santa Barbara area whose family cannot afford one.

*All donations are tax deductible.*

To schedule a donation, contact:

**John Padfield**  
Project Administrator  
964-4711, ext. 5400

[john@sbcff.org](mailto:john@sbcff.org) • [www.sbcff.org](http://www.sbcff.org)



## Computers donated to needy Santa Maria students

The Santa Maria Valley Industry Education Council (SMVIEC) and the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce teamed up to award eight new computers to needy students in the Santa Maria Valley. The presentations were made at a Chamber luncheon at the Abel Maldonado Youth Center.

The eight computers were sponsored by the Chamber, C & D Aerospace, the Employers Advisory Council, and Morgan Stanley and the Souza Group.

“We live in an age that is creating a digital divide, separating those who have computer access from those who do not,” explained County Superintendent Bill Cirone, whose office helps coordinate the program.

“Anything we can do as a community to bridge that divide, and provide computers and training to those who would otherwise have to go without, will go a long way toward helping students gain the skills they need to be productive adults, consumers, and workers.”

The Computer Connections committee is a joint partnership between the Chamber and the Santa Maria Valley Industry Education Council.

## Robertson elected to state board



Sandra Robertson, longtime seventh grade English teacher at Santa Barbara Junior High School, was elected to the board of directors of the California Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (CASCD).

The organization is an affiliate of the national Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), an association of

professional educators who share a commitment to excellence in education.

As a board member, Robertson will help promote exemplary teaching practices, and provide professional development opportunities.

Robertson’s commitment to high teaching standards was recently acknowledged by her appointment to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, (NBPTS) Adolescence and Young Adulthood/English Language Arts Standards Committee.

She and her fellow appointee, Santa Barbara Junior High Principal Gerrie Fausett, are serving on a committee whose purpose is to define the critical aspects of accomplished teaching in the field. The committee is responsible for revising existing English language arts standards that serve as the basis for National Board Certification.

## Hate-motivated behavior to be addressed Feb. 13

Hate-motivated behavior in schools will be discussed in a special presentation by members of the California Hate Crime Task Force Training Team from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 13 at the Marriott Hotel in Buellton.

Walter Bouman and Hilda Quiroz will target their presentation to K-12 school teams, district office teams, mental health professionals, law enforcement and probation workers, and community agency and county personnel.

They will cover how hate behavior differs from other violent behavior; what motivates a person to commit a hate crime; what are district responsibilities based on new legislation; how to use early warning signs to shape intervention practices; dealing with race, religion, gender, and sexual minority discrimination in schools; and exploring hate on the Net. Information: Lorraine Waldau, 735-7035 or lwaldau@utech.net.

## Working with bullies, their victims, Feb. 28

An advanced presentation on bullying will be presented by Martin Fleming, founder of For KidSake, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 28 at the Marriott Hotel in Buellton.

The workshop, intended for those who have attended one of the previous bullying workshops, will help create an understanding of issues presented by bullies and identify strategies and techniques for helping victims help themselves. Participants will learn intervention strategies; develop skills for working with families; and learn how to help students bully-proof their schools. Information: Lorraine Waldau, 735-7035 or lwaldau@utech.net.

# Plan Ahead . . .

## January

- 1 — New Year's Day holiday (SBCEO closed)
- 2 — County Board of Education meeting, 2 p.m., SBCEO Board Room
- 6 — Superintendents meeting, 9 a.m., Santa Ynez HS Board Room
- 15 — School Business Officials Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Lompoc
- 20 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday (SBCEO closed)
- 22 — SB County COOP/Title III-LEP Consortium Meeting, 9-11:30 a.m., Santa Ynez HS Board Room
- 23 — National School Nurse Day

## February Black History Month

- 1 — Academic Decathlon, Arroyo Grande High School
- 3 — Superintendents meeting, 9 a.m., Santa Ynez HS Board Room
- 4 — SDFSC/TUPE Advisory Committee Meeting, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Marriott Hotel, Buellton
- 4 — SDFSC/TUPE Program Managers Meeting, 10:45 a.m.–noon, Marriott Hotel, Buellton
- 5 — Teachers Network Grant Recognition Dinner, Solvang (for info., contact Carol Gregor at 964-4711, x5281 or cgregor@sbceo.org)

## February, cont'd.

- 6 — County Board of Education meeting, 2 p.m., SBCEO Board Room
- 13 — Hate-Motivated Behavior in Schools Workshop - Walter Bouman and Hilda Quiroz, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Marriott Hotel, Buellton (for information contact Lorraine Waldau at 735-7035 or lwaldau@utech.net)
- 14 — Lincoln Day holiday (SBCEO closed)
- 17 — Washington Day holiday (SBCEO closed)
- 19 — School Business Officials Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Los Alamos
- 21 — 2004 Teacher of the Year application deadline (for information, contact Carol Gregor at 964-4711, x5281 or cgregor@sbceo.org)
- 22 — Mock Trial preliminaries, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Santa Barbara County Courthouse
- 25 — Santa Barbara County Spelling Bee, SBCEO Auditorium
- 28 — Working with Bullies and Their Victims Workshop - Martin Fleming, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Marriott Hotel, Buellton, \$45 (for information contact Lorraine Waldau at 735-7035 or lwaldau@utech.net)

## March

### Women's History Month Arts Education Month

- 1 — Mock Trial semi-finals and finals, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Santa Barbara County Courthouse
- 3 — Superintendents meeting, 9 a.m., Santa Ynez HS Board Room
- 5 — Disseminator Grant application deadline Feb 21: 2004 Teacher of the Year application deadline (for information, contact Carol Gregor at 964-4711, x5281 or cgregor@sbceo.org)
- 6 — County Board of Education meeting, 2 p.m., SBCEO Board Room
- 6-9 — California Academic Decathlon, Modesto
- 10 — SB County COOP/Title III-LEP Consortium Meeting, 9-11:30 a.m., Santa Ynez HS Board Room
- 13 — Battle of the Books, SBCEO Auditorium
- 14 — Crystal Apple nomination deadline (for information, contact Carol Gregor at 964-4711, x5281 or cgregor@sbceo.org)
- 17 — School Business Officials Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Santa Maria High School

# MetLife Fellows to conduct research

Continued from page 1

This select group of elementary, middle, and high school teachers represents ten TNPI affiliates nationwide — Charlotte, NC; Chicago, IL; Fairfax County, VA; Fayette County, KY; Los Angeles, CA; Miami, FL; New York City, NY; Santa Barbara County, CA; Santa Clara County, CA; and the State of Wyoming.

“TNPI was established in 1996 to connect education policy with actual classroom practice to improve student achievement,” explained County Superintendent Bill Cirone, whose office coordinates the program in this county. “Fellows read relevant literature, participate in online dialogues, and meet regularly with policymakers. As a major part of their work, TNPI MetLife Fellows, teachers with full-time classroom responsibilities, also conduct action research studies in their classrooms and schools—addressing the direct link between policymaking and its effect on student achievement.”

This past spring, TNPI MetLife Fellows co-authored the groundbreaking *Ensuring Teacher Quality*. Highlighting ways in which policy plays out in the real world of schools and classrooms, this book demonstrates how TNPI MetLife Fellows have been researching their own practice to realize change far beyond the classroom—bringing the voice of teachers, for the first time, to the fore in education policymaking.

*Ensuring Teacher Quality* documents fellows’ action research studies and distills these findings to four education reform recommendations:

- Engage teachers in designing and implementing effective professional development
- Provide time in the school schedule for teacher collaboration to improve instruction and student learning
- Re-envision the teaching profession as a continuum beginning in pre-service and persisting through a lifetime of growth
- Include teachers in the decision-making process about school resources, specifically time and money.

Ellen Meyers, director of the Teachers Network Policy Institute, said that “this kind of teacher action research serves as the catalyst to forge meaningful conversations among parents, communities, and policymakers about what really works in education.” Summary versions of TNPI action research and more information about TNPI is available online at: [www.teachersnetwork.org/TNPI](http://www.teachersnetwork.org/TNPI).

TNPI works in partnership with the National Commission on Teaching & America’s Future (NCTAF), the Education Commission of the States (ECS), and New York University Steinhardt School of Education. Major funding for TNPI is

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