

AveNEWS

ADULT & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION NEWS



Instructor Tawney with student Vicente Gonzales

CCOC's John Tawny is MetroED Teacher-of-the-Year

John Tawney, Central County Occupational Center air conditioning and refrigeration instructor, and MetroED's Teacher-of-the-Year, was recently honored at the Santa Clara County Office of Education's 36th annual Teacher Recognition awards reception.

Mr. Tawney has taught at CCOC for 25 years and serves as the advisor to its SkillsUSA program, and as president of the local chapter of the California Teachers Association. In addition to his teaching experience, he worked 10 years in the air conditioning trade and served seven years in the Army National Guard.

This is not the first Teacher-of-the-Year honor for Mr. Tawney. He was also the district's choice for the award in 1985.

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MAEP Diploma Program Cited by State for "Excellence"

The Metropolitan Adult Education Program (MAEP) High School Diploma Program has been named a "Program of Excellence" by the California Department of Education (CDE). The award came after a team of adult education specialists led by the CDE's **Wolfgang von Sydow** spent two days last spring touring high school diploma, GED and ABE/GED classes at MAEP's Campbell, Erikson and San Jose sites. The state evaluators also visited MAEP's Capitol High School and Independent Study Program.

In announcing the award, **Jean Scott**, administrator of the CDE's Adult Education Office said, "MAEP's exemplary programs and practices make it possible for adult students to open doors to success and improve their lives through adult education."

One of 11 programs nominated for the award, MAEP was recognized for excelling in the areas of curriculum and instruction, learner support services, leadership and planning, learner accomplishment, and community involvement and collaboration. MAEP Director **Suzi Glass** said the MAEP staff is excited and honored to be recognized. "Many students must juggle families and jobs while attending class to earn a

District Salutes Employees

*The July 2005 issue of AveNEWS failed to mention two employees recognized for length of service and job achievement at MetroED. **Annie Deckert**, parent education teacher at MAEP, and **Eileen Gilmore**, who supervises credentialing information, applications and renewals in MetroED's Central Office, are both 10-year district employees. We regret the oversight.*

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AveNEWS is a publication of Metropolitan Education District which administers the Central County Occupational Center/Programs for six South Bay school districts and the Metropolitan Adult Education Program for two school districts.

At its 242,000 square foot Occupational Center at 760 Hillside Avenue in San Jose, Central County Occupational Center provides job training for students from more than two dozen local high schools as well as adults from the South Bay region. Training is tuition-free or at a nominal cost in 32 occupational fields including computer technology, health, business, manufacturing, automotive systems and service technologies.

MAEP offers programs at no tuition or at nominal cost to adults in such categories as high school diploma, adult literacy, English as a Second Language, older adults, handicapped adults, parent education, personal and professional growth.

Metropolitan Education District has an annual budget of approximately \$21 million and its staff of 730 full and part-time employees serves over 50,000 persons each year. Classes and programs are offered at more than 75 sites throughout the community.

MetroED

diploma; our job is to help them manage those responsibilities as well as develop the skills they need to achieve the goals they have set for themselves," she said.

Announcement of the 'Excellence' award came at the annual Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) adult education conference in September in Rancho Mirage, and a formal presentation will be made at MetroED's December Governing Board meeting by Ms. Scott, and CDE consultant, **Gloria Guzman-Walker**.

Superintendent Schedules Site Visits

In early November, MetroED Superintendent **Tim Hallett** will meet with employees at several district sites. The informal gatherings will update employees on MetroED policies and activities, and also allow them to establish a dialogue with the superintendent.

Mr. Hallett will be at MAEP's Erickson site on Wednesday, November 2, at 11:15am and 6pm; at MetroED's Hillsdale campus on Thursday, November 3, at 11:15am and 6pm; at MAEP's San Jose site on Monday, November 7, at 11:15am and 6pm; and at the MAEP Campbell site on Tuesday, November 8, at 11:30am and 6pm.

New Programs, Services at CCOC

Three new programs for high school and adult students are offered this year by CCOC:

- **Jeff Schmidt** teaches Video Production in a remodeled classroom that includes a studio with a video control room. Future plans call for a sound room. Students will shoot videos both on and off campus.

- In Forensic Investigation, taught by **Gordon Sanford**, students have already watched the video of an actual crime, studied its case files, marked forensic evidence found at the scene, and evaluated the importance of the evidence.

- Computer Technology Careers is an overview of jobs available in the computer technology field. Taught by **Justin Locketz**, the course examines such subject areas as computer sales, computer technician, computer programmer, systems analyst, computer maintenance, and network administration.

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Key Acronyms

CCOC = Central County Occupational Center
MAEP = Metropolitan Adult Education Program
MetroED = Metropolitan Education District

- CCOC has restructured its Virtual Enterprise class. Now titled Small Business Management and taught by **Sara Crowder**, the class will operate an actual, on-campus business as well as a "virtual" business.

- CCOC now provides students with an on-campus advisor/counselor. **Chantu Nguyen** holds a Master's Degree in Educational Counseling and deals with students' academic and personal issues that range from transferring classes to personal problems. Students can contact Ms. Nguyen on their own or be referred by a teacher. Her office is located next to student services.

Garden Classes at Erikson

MAEP'S World Garden will host its third workshop for employees and the community on October 22, followed by a class on the basics of composting. Located at MAEP's Erikson site, 4849 Pearl Avenue, the garden workshop is free and its topic is cool season vegetables. Time has been allocated for a question and answer session to address the season's hot topics.

Following the composting class, participants will be able to purchase compost bins sold by the Home Composting Education Program of Santa Clara County.

For more information, or to reserve a space at either the workshop or the composting class, email World Garden Coordinator **Rita Bottini**, at RitaB@metroed.net or phone 723-6450.

MetroED's Back-to-School Meetings

As the new school year got underway, district staff of both CCOC and MAEP gathered to discuss the district's general goals and direction, as well as specific goals for CCOC and MAEP programs.

The CCOC contingent started the day with a "get acquainted/reacquainted" breakfast prior to meeting with CCOC Director **John Fox** and a math staff development training session. They then joined their MAEP counterparts for a district-wide meeting and welcome from Superintendent **Tim Hallett**. Lunch followed.

Mr. Hallett introduced new directors and assistant principals, as well as key district staff members, including human resources employees, instruction accountability staff, finance and information technology employees, and union officials.

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PEOPLE & EVENTS

District Welcomes New Administrators for 2005/06

Both of MetroED's major divisions, MAEP and CCOC, started the 2005/06 school year with new leadership at the top. But neither administrator had time to get comfortable in the new job. Beginning the year with an unexpected 1800-plus students was the first order of business for **John Fox**, CCOC's new director. He cites the good work of last year's staff in getting the word out about CCOC as the main reason enrollment has increased approximately 18% from a year ago at this time.



Suzi Glass, MAEP Director

Mr. Fox comes to MetroED from Indianapolis, where he served as assistant director of the Vocational/Adult Education at the J. Everett Light Career Center.

"I look forward to serving our students and community by providing support to our teachers," he said.

MAEP's new director, **Suzi Glass**, took over an adult education program that is one of the state's largest, serving more than 45,000 adults at more than 40 locations throughout San Jose



John Fox, CCOC Director

and Campbell, and offers a huge variety of day and evening classes.

Fortunately, Ms. Glass can rely on 15 years of experience with MAEP, most recently as assistant principal of MAEP's Campbell unit. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Redlands in 1969 and, in 1980, a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from California State University, Hayward (now Cal State East Bay).

Assistant Principals Added

Carolyn Richardson comes to MAEP from the Santa Cruz school system where she was the district's Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Staff Development. Prior to that she was an elementary school principal in the San Mateo-Foster City school district. Ms.

Richardson has also been a classroom teacher of mathematics.



MAEP Assistant Principal, Patrizia Guiotto

Patrizia Guiotto, who holds Master Degrees in Education Administration and Instructional Performance

Technology, joined MAEP in July. With the San Francisco Unified School District she designed and implemented interventions to achieve district and state standards and goals, aligned curriculum, developed remedial classes, and improved teachers' effectiveness. She has also been a science and math teacher.



MAEP Assistant Principal, Carolyn Richardson

AveNEWS Photos by Steve Castillo

