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May 20, 2009

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NEWS RELEASE

Fort Bragg High School Counselor Receives Prestigious “Marmaduke Award”

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA—Twila Rutherford of Fort Bragg High School has been awarded the prestigious 2008-09 Arthur Marmaduke High School Counselor Award from the California Student Aid Commission.

Rutherford received the award for her excellence in counseling and skill in motivating and helping an exceptional number of graduating high school seniors to receive financial aid for education beyond high school.

Arthur Marmaduke served as the executive director of the Commission for 25 years. This award is made in honor of his dedication and commitment to helping students gain access to postsecondary education through the Commission’s many grant, scholarship and loan programs.

For the past two years, an average of 32 percent of Fort Bragg High school seniors who qualified and submitted a complete application for financial aid received a Cal Grant award. Rutherford has been instrumental in organizing and facilitating all of Fort Bragg High School college information and financial aid parent nights to help get the word out about financial aid availability for education beyond high school and to help students complete the college application process.

“Cal Grant aid is guaranteed to all California high school graduates who qualify,” California Student Aid Commission Executive Director, Diana Fuentes-Michel said. “High School Counselors like Twila Rutherford are essential to students in learning and receiving information about financial aid opportunities.”

Rutherford has 38 years of experience in Fort Bragg Unified School District of which 30 years have been as a school counselor at Fort Bragg High School.

The Marmaduke Award is selected each year by members of the California Student Aid Commission. The Commission and its auxiliary, EdFund, provide a \$1,500 monetary award to one financial aid counselor or administrator who has demonstrated superior skills, dedication and commitment in helping students gain access to postsecondary education through the Commission’s grant, scholarship and loan assumption programs.

Rutherford will receive the Marmaduke award at the Fort Bragg High School Awards Night at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2009.

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