



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Carole Solov
(916) 526-7991

California Student Aid Commission Awards Outstanding High School Counselor for 2003-2004

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA — The California Student Aid Commission announces today that Sue Ann Joy of San Rafael High School, San Rafael, California has been selected as the recipient of the Commission's distinguished 2003-2004 Arthur Marmaduke High School Counselor Award. The annual award goes to an outstanding California high school counselor who demonstrates extraordinary counseling skills resulting in exceptional numbers of graduating high school seniors who enroll in college. Joy was selected from an outstanding field of candidates.

"It is with heartfelt congratulations that the Commission applauds the remarkable contributions of Sue Ann Joy to the students of San Rafael High School by encouraging them to pursue their dream of a college education," said Diana Fuentes-Michel, executive director of the Commission. "With this award, the Commission recognizes the day-by-day, dedicated hard work of California high school counselors, as they strive to assist their graduating seniors with accessing a college education."

Joy, in her 41st year working at San Rafael High with a diverse student body – both socioeconomically and ethnically – has myriad accomplishments to her credit, including individualized knowledge and counseling of each senior on their post graduation plans; small group training on how to apply for financial aid for college and how to complete the necessary forms; lunchtime Senior Scholarship meetings; bilingual Financial Aid Night meetings for seniors and their parents; the San Rafael High School Alumni Scholarship Committee; informative assembly presentations by representatives from California's various higher education segments, such as the California State University; and, a calendar of senior guidance counseling practices that has been perfected over the past 30 years.

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Judith Colton, principal of San Rafael High School, states that Joy is “the benevolent sage, the experienced counselor, and the matriarch of her field.” Colton continues, “Sue Ann has created the most comprehensive program for postsecondary education and financial aid that I have ever seen. What she has created for our seniors is truly beyond compare.”

Asked what she considered as one of her most memorable student success stories, Joy reminisces, “I can think of one student, who could have been a drop-out....I knew she was bright, but she had family problems. So, much of what I did was encourage her to keep her in school ... keep her focused, not ready to run away....She did attend (community) college and then was able to transfer and graduate from college. She became a teacher, an elementary school teacher. She has come back to visit me.”

The Arthur Marmaduke High School Counselor Award was established by the Commission in 1985 to recognize annually one high school counselor who has demonstrated superior skills, dedication, and success in helping students seek and receive financial aid for college. Arthur Marmaduke served as the executive director of the Commission for 25 years, and this award is made in honor of the dedication and commitment that he demonstrated in helping students gain access to postsecondary education through the Commission’s many grant and loan programs.

Sue Ann Joy will be presented with a commemorative plaque and a \$1,500 monetary award.

For further information on the California Student Aid Commission and financial aid opportunities for college-bound students, including the Cal Grant Program, visit www.csac.ca.gov or www.calgrants.org .

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The California Student Aid Commission is the state’s principal provider of intersegmental statewide grant aid to postsecondary students. Founded in 1955 as the California State Scholarship Commission, the Commission’s primary programmatic responsibilities include operation of the Cal Grant program, which will distribute over \$612 million to California’s college students during the 2003-2004 school year, and several targeted state scholarship and loan forgiveness programs. The 15-member Commission oversees the activities of its non-profit student loan services auxiliary, EDFUND. The Commission is headquartered in Rancho Cordova, California.

California Student Aid Commission and its associated graphic are the service mark of the California Student Aid Commission.