

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

10474 Mather Boulevard, P.O. Box 269003  
Sacramento, California 95826-9003

<b>Subject:</b> SCOE's Teacher of the Year 2006	<b>Agenda Item No.:</b> VII.B. <b>Enclosures:</b> -0-
<b>Reason:</b> Recognition	<b>From:</b> David W. Gordon <b>Prepared by:</b> Tim Herrera <b>Board Meeting Date:</b> November 14, 2005

**BACKGROUND:**

Teacher **Cathy Goodrich** has been selected as Sacramento County Office of Education Teacher of the Year 2006. A resident of Elk Grove, Ms. Goodrich has been a teacher for six years—three in her current position as a teacher of SCOE's Young Adult Transition class on the Galt High School campus in the rural town of Galt. She entered the teaching profession after devoting 14 years as a special education paraeducator (teacher's aide). Prior to her work with SCOE, Ms. Goodrich worked at Arcohe School District.

She received a B.A. degree in liberal studies from California State University, Stanislaus, and a M.A. degree in education/special education from California State University, Sacramento. She completed her work to receive a special education teaching credential at CSUS. She will receive her CLAD (Cultural Language and Development) certification from CSUS in December 2005.

Ms. Goodrich works with special education students ranging from 18 to 22 years of age to help equip them with the life skills they need to enter the world after high school. She establishes partnerships and relationships with Galt businesses and organizations to increase learning and job opportunities for her students.

Cathy Goodrich states in her Teacher of the Year application: "My work for students with disabilities, combined with my commitment to be the best teacher I can be, is actually changing lives and making a positive impact on the world around me. It is easy for me to be diligent in my efforts to teach students with unique and demanding needs because my passion for them and their success in life is real. I want to encourage my students to think for themselves, to reach for their dreams and to try to bring out the best in each individual."

Jerri Scott, retired SCOE principal, recommended Ms. Goodrich as Teacher of the Year because she "is one of those rare and exceptionally talented individuals who is the consummate teacher and professional. She conducts her classroom and her lessons with apparent ease, yet she never wavers from her purpose. Her resolve to ensure that students get the best possible intervention and instruction is impressive ... she is a brilliant teacher and human being who rejoices in her work and loves what she does."

Cathy Goodrich is known for her exemplary work in both the classroom and the community. In naming her as its "Outstanding Teacher of the Year 2005," the Sacramento Association for the Retarded stated: "She has had remarkable success in helping her students prepare for life after their school careers by focusing on outcomes and using tools that yield results for students in functional living skills and independent living skills classes, at job sites, and using community transportation. She has made sure of her positive relationships with the transitional adult programs her students will go to when they leave her classes, and has created a lively partnership with the Galt Adult Community Training

Program—all to better facilitate the move from school settings to adult life upon graduation. Her work makes a significant contribution to the lives of her students.”

In a letter recommending Cathy Goodrich as Teacher of the Year 2006, SCOE Program Specialist Meladee McCarty wrote, “Cathy prepares her students for life after school... She has created a partnership with the Regional Centers in various counties and the Galt ACT Adult Day Program through Galt Joint Union High School District so that upon graduation her students will continue to work and thrive in their community. She is exceptional in the process of communicating with all the professionals and families who are so important to the special needs of this population of student.” In praising Cathy Goodrich for her consistency, thoroughness and follow-through skills, Ms. McCarty lauds Cathy’s classroom management and teaching techniques. She concludes, “If you have the opportunity to experience Cathy in her classroom and with her staff, you will enjoy the laughter and fun that takes place there as a primary ingredient of learning.”

Rosemary Wold, parent of one of Cathy Goodrich’s students, wrote in a letter of recommendation, “I feel that Mrs. Goodrich is most deserving of this award for the time, effort and caring I see her put forth with her students as well as their families. Mrs. Goodrich has students with varying degrees of intelligence and disabilities, and deals with each one as if they were her own child, making sure they get the best she can give them.” Ms. Wold told the story of her son, Michael, who had experienced a traumatic brain injury through an accident just prior to graduating from high school. Michael—now in a wheelchair—is experiencing success in functioning within his disability, thanks to the one-on-one attention given by Ms. Goodrich. “Along with helping him regain what had been lost, she is also helping him in other ways such as learning sign language to help with his decreased ability to speak,” stated Ms. Wold. “In my opinion she should be teacher of the year every year!”

Ms. Goodrich says of her students, “Whether or not they have the processing or physical capabilities to act on their desires is not the point—they have dreams they want to see fulfilled. It is the responsibility of my staff and myself to assist these individuals in acquiring as many skills as necessary to set them on a path to life success. When my students demonstrate skills of independence, learning has taken place, and their success is my success.” She states, “I truly want to make a difference in the lives of children and youth with disabilities. I want them to have jobs, to be informed consumers and to work with community partnerships to enhance the employability of our student population so they, too, can become contributing members of our society.”

Cathy Goodrich was honored at the Sacramento County Teachers of the Year Banquet held on September 7, 2005, the Sacramento Hilton. During the 2005-2006 NBA season, Cathy Goodrich will be honored with all of the Sacramento County school district Teachers of the Year Sunday, February 5, 2006, during halftime of the Sacramento Kings vs. Utah Jazz game at ARCO Arena.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board recognize Cathy Goodrich as the Sacramento County Office of Education Teacher of the Year 2006 and present her with a plaque commemorating this honor.