



Salinas Adult School Week A Success- Now We Relax Over the Memorial Day Holiday

Food, music, displays, demonstrations, tours and other activities filled this week with the kind of warm environment that typifies our school. An international flavor enriched the week—African drummers, Aztec dancers, German schnitzel, the history of Salinas Chinatown—all part of our tradition and service to all the groups who have come to make a home in the Salinas valley. The week both gave us an opportunity to reach out to our community and celebrate SAS's successes among ourselves. That the results of election day in the middle of the week also opens the state budget again, with unknown consequences for adult ed., made our taking the time to celebrate our success and lift morale even more important.

On Tuesday we had a very successful Community Advisory Council with over 30 friends and interested community members representing private business, older adult groups, the workforce development system, other educational institutions, and the city and county services. We presented our current status, with over

22,000 students already enrolled this year, attendance up especially in ESP, and how we will need to reduce programs by at least 20%. We broke into groups and asked them what we needed to know about Salinas now, and what we should remember as we reduce the size of our school. They gave us a clear message that focusing on classes that helped people get jobs needs to be a high priority now. Salinas City Mayor **Dennis Donohue** also gave the group a very positive vision of what Salinas can be, and how the adult school has a key role in preparing a workforce for a healthy economy. The resolution from the city council the Mayor brought us is on our website.

Then **Tony Royal**, principal at SAS from 1966 to 1981, and **Corinne Price**, principal from 1981—2008, cut the ribbon to begin the festivities for the week. Friday was the culmination of the week where we honored our "longest-serving" teacher, **An McDowell**, who has left this year to work with Assembly Member Bill Monning. He was here to honor An, along with others who have worked with An, studied with her, from the 30 years she worked in the school. And *then* the week ended with the presentation of our Salinas Adult School Student & Employee Recognition Ceremony. We honored the many years of service of many of our employees, especially 25 years of outstanding accomplishments in parent education and early childhood education by **Mary Ann Cain** who is also retiring this year. The Outstanding Student Award was presented to the ESP student **Dianna Escobar** who is graduating this year and also got her son to study in the ESP with her. The Outstanding Classified Employee of the Year Award was presented to **Penny Savage** who was recognized for skill and helpfulness at solving just about any problem presented to her. The Outstanding Certificated Employee of the Year Award was presented to **Maria Miller** for her exceptional work as CBET Coordinator and her own example of Lifelong Learning and continued professional development. The Outstanding Group of the Year Award was presented to the **Adults With Disabilities Staff**, for their exceptional work with the expanded day programs for adults with special needs. Last, the Outstanding Community Partner Award was presented to **Jackie Frey from Monterey County Behavioral Health Department** who has worked so well, with such great response, in supporting our Parents as Teachers Program. By the week's end I think anyone who was paying attention would have agreed that our unique capacity to serve those adults who come to us is invaluable to Salinas, and we need to do all we can to make sure our doors remain open for these students.

Update: Planning for Next Year: I know many will be happy to see this in print.... *All of our permanent teachers will be assigned their tenured hours for the 2009-2010 school year.* The district will not send rescind letters to the permanent teachers, but at this point, we are planning an instructional program to encompass all permanent teachers. You may be assigned something different from what you have this year. We hope to have "assignment letters" out to you before the end of school, and you will be asked to come in to sign contracts as usual. The number of temporary teachers that are part of our instructional program is still uncertain.. It is possible that many or most of our temporary teachers will not be assigned. A next step will be when our Board receives our tentative budget at the Board meeting Tuesday night this week. The adjustments to our reduced funding are difficult, and we will be smaller in staff and run fewer class. The budget crisis, after Tuesday, is far from over . But we will do what we can do to be here for our students who need us more now than ever.

