

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: March 17, 2015

Contacts: Janet Orvis-Cook, Executive Director, CFS, 238-1800
Cynthia Fenech, Communications Coordinator, 238-1704
Judy Leitz, Communications Coordinator, 238-1709

California Head Start Association Recognizes Local Individuals for their Contributions to Lives of Children

At the California Head Start Association's Annual Awards Dinner held in Los Angeles in February, **Leilani San Nicolas Garcia** and **Breanna Lopes** from the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) and Modesto Mayor **Garrad Marsh** were recognized for their contributions to excellence and innovation in the Head Start field and for the special contributions they have made to the lives of children. This year three of only seven winners were from Stanislaus County.

Leilani San Nicolas Garcia, *Coordinator of Early Childhood Programs* at SCOE, was selected as *Program Services Staff of the Year*. According to her nominator, Leilani is a bright and innovative thinker who constantly comes up with new ideas and works with community organizations to ensure quality services to children and families.

Breanna Lopes, *Budget and Special Projects Supervisor* at SCOE, was selected as *Support Staff of the Year*. According to her nominator, in addition to her amazing budgeting and accounting skills, Breanna ensures Head Start children and families receive services that are high quality, cost effective and comply with fiscal regulations.

More....

Garrad Marsh, *Mayor, City of Modesto*, was selected *Friend of Head Start* for partnering with SCOE's Child/Family Services Division on the West Modesto Family Child Care Home Project.

Providing children and families with high quality early care and education services to support school readiness is the goal of SCOE's Child & Family Services (CFS) Division. Through a wide variety of federal and state-funded Head Start and State Preschool centers and home-based services, last year approximately 7,250 children (from birth through age five) participated in early education activities.

###