

News Release

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Stanislaus Partners In Education (SPIE) Annual Recognition Luncheon Honoring Local Businesses

Stanislaus Partners in Education (SPIE) will recognize business and industry partners at their **Annual Recognition Luncheon** on Thursday, October 22, 2015 from 11:15 – 1:00 p.m. at the Health Education and Conference Center: McHenry Village (1700 McHenry Avenue, Modesto). A non-profit organization representing business, labor, government and education, SPIE enlists the resources of the community to maximize the employment potential of young people and adults in Stanislaus County. Slated to be honored at the luncheon are **The Alliance Workforce Divisions - Alliance Worknet** and **Del Ambris of Cost Less Foods**, along with businesses who have partnered with local schools.

Del Ambris, Store Director of Cost Less Foods, will receive SPIE's highest award: The Peter Johansen Award. Over the last 10 years Ambris has regularly supported fundraisers at multiple schools sites in Ceres, through substantial grocery and cash donations. Ambris is a business partner with seven Ceres schools and the Ceres Unified School District Foundation, assisting these organizations in meeting fundraising goals. In addition, he works with the Project YES (Youth Employment Services) program to provide employment opportunities to Ceres' youth and currently employs eight former Project YES participants. Ambris also partners with the Ceres Leaps and Bounds program, hiring students from this program into regular part-time positions with Cost Less Foods. Through the years thousands of students have benefited as a direct result of his generosity and from the partnerships he has created with Ceres schools. "Del works with so many of our programs," said Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services Jay Simmonds. "When we call Del with a need, he comes to our aid right then and there. He's absolutely committed to students, families, and the community."

Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOPE) will recognize The Alliance's -- Workforce Division - Alliance Worknet as a county-wide partner. Through the leadership of Dave White, Chief Executive Officer of the Alliance, the mission of the Alliance Worknet is to prepare individuals for jobs that are in demand by local businesses and to provide businesses with referrals of qualified applicants – this mission is what makes for the perfect partnership between business and education. The Alliance Network has been integral in supporting students who are returning to school to obtain their high school diploma through SCOPE's Come Back Kids (CBK) program. They are also helping students acquire skills that lead to employment or continuing their education at a post-secondary institution of higher learning. CBK students have benefitted from the many services and resources provided by the Alliance Worknet, such as "Work Keys" testing, internships, providing computers to the SCOPE PearsonVUE GED testing center and assistance with challenges that may be an obstacle to their success. Former Chief Workforce Development Officer and Director, Jeff Rowe began working with SCOPE and CBK a year ago and now that commitment continues with Kristy Santos, Supervisor, Business & Career Services.