



NEWS RELEASE

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Stanislaus County earns national achievement award for Employee Mentor Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Stanislaus County Employee Mentor Program has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that enhance services for residents.

NACo recognized the Stanislaus County Employee Mentor Program in the Children and Youth Category by acknowledging the powerful impacts this program is having on the local Stanislaus County community. County employees, along with partner agencies including Modesto City Schools, the Stanislaus County Office of Education, a faith based collaborative, service clubs, retired employees and local college students have rallied to develop a sustained youth mentoring program now in its 17th year of existence. Through a completely voluntary effort, the program provides quality mentoring time and attention to area young people in grades 3 - 5 primarily.

“This is simply an amazing program” says Terry Withrow, Stanislaus County Supervisor and Board Chairman. “ By engaging our struggling young people early we are so better equipped to provide them the level playing field opportunities they deserve. I am so proud of our employee groups and all of our community partners for making this program a pure best practice.”

NACo President Riki Hokama, council member, Maui County, Hawaii, said, “The National Association of Counties applauds county governments that are embracing innovative and more effective ways to serve their constituents. The Achievement Awards recognize counties’ outstanding efforts to strengthen services and deliver results for residents across the country.”

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Nationally, awards are given in 21 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, environmental protection, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more.

The awards will be presented at NACo's 2015 Annual Conference and Exposition July 10–13 in Mecklenburg County, N.C.

Started in 1970, NACo's annual Achievement Award Program is designed to recognize innovative county government programs. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) unites America's 3,069 county governments. Founded in 1935, NACo brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational county solutions, enrich the public's understanding of county government and exercise exemplary leadership in public service. Learn more at www.naco.org

