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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **75 Year Old Student Earns High School Diploma**

ORANGE, Calif., June 28, 2010—Marjorie Elliott, 75, recently became one of the oldest high school graduates in the history of the Orange Unified School District. Mrs. Elliott earned her diploma through OUSD's Community Day School (CDS) Program by completing all the required core coursework along with successfully passing the California High School Exit Exam.

Christie Reider, Coordinator for Alternative Education and ROP, said of Mrs. Elliott, "Marjorie came here and studied with the high school students in CDS. She needed to learn how to take tests, choose the best possible answer on those tests and study habits. She was a mentor and a terrific example for our students. She also held them accountable for their behavior in class."

Growing up in rural Colorado, Mrs. Elliott was pulled from school by her mother when she was a freshman in high school at the age of 14. "We were poor," Mrs. Elliott explained. "I was one of thirteen children and we couldn't afford the tuition at the local private school. I was devastated and I knew that one day I would finish and get my diploma."

Next, she married young and had three daughters of her own. She and her husband moved to Southern California in 1962. Their marriage ended two years later and she spent the next forty plus years dedicating herself to her children, her church and local senior center. "It's now time to do something for myself," said Mrs. Elliott.

Mrs. Elliott spoke of the support she received at CDS. "They gave me so much encouragement and support. It was my quest to finish my high school diploma. I was met with love and warmth," she said.

Last year, she earned the Outstanding Student Award given by the Central County Regional Occupational Program which encompasses Orange Unified, Santa Ana Unified and Garden Grove Unified School Districts.

Recently, she has applied to Santiago Community College to further her studies in general education. "I'm not sure what I am going to do after that. My daughter has asked me if I am ever going to grow up. I told her, 'I guess not,'" said Elliott.

*The Orange Unified School District is located at 1401 North Handy Street in Orange, CA*

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