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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Barney and Higley Earn National Board Certification

ORANGE, Calif., December 6, 2010—The Orange Unified School District is proud to announce two District teachers, Helen Barney, mathematics teacher at Yorba Middle School, Academy of the Arts, and Cynthia Higley, science teacher from Cerro Villa Middle School have earned the status of National Board Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Ms. Barney has taught at Yorba for eight years. Her National Board Certification is in Early Adolescent Mathematics. Up until this recent certification, there were only 148 National Board Certified Early Adolescent Math teachers in CA. “This process was challenging but it gave me an opportunity to reflect upon my practice and how I can better serve the students and parents here at Yorba,” stated Ms. Barney.

Ms. Kerrie Torres, Yorba principal, added, “This accomplishment is the most prolific display of professionalism. Ms. Barney has demonstrated a commitment to learning and is a great example to our students and her colleagues.”

Ms. Higley has taught 8th grade Chemistry, Physics, and Astronomy at Cerro Villa for four years after spending twenty years in a neighboring school district. She said of the accomplishment, “I wanted to push myself beyond the regular classroom duties and see how I measure up against other National Board Certified teachers.”

Dr. Ken Miller, Cerro Villa principal, said, “This is an incredible accomplishment for Ms. Higley. She has reached the pinnacle of teacher certification. This is an honor for our students, parents and our school.”

National Board Certification is an advanced teaching credential. It complements, but does not replace, a state’s teacher license, and is valid for 10 years. National Board Certification is achieved upon successful completion of a voluntary assessment program

designed to recognize effective and accomplished teachers who meet high standards based on what teachers should know and be able to do.

As part of the certification process, candidates complete 10 assessments that are reviewed by trained teachers in their certificate areas. The assessments include four portfolio entries that feature teaching practice and six constructed response exercises that assess content knowledge.

Other OUSD National Board Certified teachers include:

1. Maribelle Donaldson - West Orange Elementary
2. Catherine Hunsberger – Santiago Charter Middle School
3. Lauren Johnston – McPherson Magnet School
4. Genie Roney – Cambridge Elementary

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

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