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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OUSD Celebrates School Bus Drivers' Day

ORANGE, Calif., April 26, 2011– School bus drivers throughout the State of California are being recognized and celebrated today and the Orange Unified School District's transportation Department took time to celebrate its employees as well. Every year, the fourth Tuesday of April is designated as School Bus Drivers' Day to officially recognize school bus drivers for their service to our school children.

The OUSD Transportation Leadership team hosted a special luncheon and awards ceremony honoring the bus drivers, mechanics and support staff today. School Bus Driver/Instructor, Valerie Arellano, received the Peer School Bus Driver of the Year award and Vehicle Maintenance Foreman, Mike Uszenski, was voted Peer Mechanic of the Year. These awards were voted on by their peers. In addition, milestone pins of five, ten and fifteen years of service will be presented along with a Safe Driver pin.

"This is a special day for our drivers and mechanics. They feel appreciated by our district and the recognition shows this. This is a nice morale booster," said Pam McDonald, Director of Transportation.

OUSD bus drivers transport over 2,500 students daily from their neighborhood bus stops with an additional 900 special needs students transported door-to-door. In addition, OUSD school bus drivers provide over 3,500 field trip, sports and activity trips annually. Finally, OUSD bus drivers log more than 1,500,000 miles annually or the equivalent of 60 times around the globe or 500 cross continental trips.

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

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