



Press Release – Orange Unified School District
For immediate release
Information: Superintendent's Office (714) 628-4487

Villa Park High School Leader Rebecca Roberts, Ed.D. Named Finalist for Nation's Top Assistant Principal

ORANGE, CA, January 31, 2013– Villa Park High School Assistant Principal Rebecca Roberts, Ed.D., is one of three nationwide finalists for the 2013 National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) Assistant Principal of the Year award. All state and national honorees will be recognized at an April black-tie gala in Washington, DC. A national winner will be selected in March.

Dr. Roberts' philosophy of school leadership draws on Theodore Roosevelt's adage, "Nobody cares how much you know, until they know you care." Her concern for each student as an individual has spurred the development of numerous intervention programs, providing extra time and support to students who need it.

Dr. Roberts implemented *Link Crew* to help freshmen transition into the high school environment at Villa Park and also created an afterschool credit-recovery program to help students stay on track to graduation. The success of this model led to its adoption District-wide.

To address the growing population of English Learners (EL), Dr. Roberts led the creation of a "boot camp" for the six weeks prior to the March state test administration. The initiative led to stronger bonds with the families of EL students and a significant improvement in their pass rates on state tests.

"Dr. Roberts is an instructional leader who makes all decisions based on what is in the best interest of students and student achievement," said Villa Park Principal Ed Howard. "Starting with a schoolwide vision and working toward an individual performance goal for all teachers has been perfect for transforming our staff into a focused, collaborative team of educators. Dr. Roberts' approach and implementation of this vision have been nothing short of spectacular."

Selection criteria for National Assistant Principal are built around collaborative leadership; curriculum, instruction, and assessment; and school personalization—the core areas of the NASSP *Breaking Ranks* Framework for school improvement.

"The assistant principal has evolved into a key instructional leadership role," said JoAnn Bartoletti, NASSP executive director. "As we continue to raise expectations for student achievement, the assistant principal becomes that much more important. We're honored to recognize these three finalists who model excellence in school leadership."

The national winner will be announced March 1, in National Harbor, MD. Each finalist will receive \$1,500 and the national winner will be awarded \$5,000, which can be used for personal professional development or for a school improvement project.