

For immediate release

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NTC wins ACSA Partners in Educational Excellence Award

These days, education can use all the help it can get from outside resources. That's why an organization such as the Santa Cruz/Silicon Valley New Teacher Project is a true local treasure and recipient of ACSA's Partners in Educational Excellence Award for 2008.

The New Teacher Center at the University of California at Santa Cruz provides the leadership for the Santa Cruz/Silicon Valley New Teacher Project, a collaborative effort that serves more than 25 school districts in Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, North Monterey and San Benito counties.

The New Teacher Project delivers innovative support for educators that has resulted in a sustained, positive impact on student achievement. Established in 1988, this mentor-based teacher induction model has grown to include principals and helps novices become confident, skilled professionals through coaching, networking and seminars that focus on skills essential to site leadership.

The primary purpose of the Santa Cruz/Silicon Valley New Teacher Project is to assist and support new teachers as they enter the profession and build their skills and knowledge of the California Standards for the Teaching Profession.

Improving classroom practice is the goal, along with developing reflective teachers who are responsive to the diverse cultural, social and linguistic backgrounds of all students.

Over the past 18 years, testimonials from teachers who have benefited from the project follow a similar theme.

Typical comments include:

- "I've been teaching for 12 years. Without the New Teacher Project, I probably wouldn't still be here today."
- "NTC taught me that I could be a successful teacher, despite my personal doubts when I first started teaching."
- "The New Teacher Project gave me confidence and the tools to survive those first few years of teaching. Now I mentor new teachers and am proud to do so."

The New Teacher Project has supported more than 10,000 beginning teachers during the first two years of their careers.

The project's executive director, Ellen Moir, is no stranger to accolades for her work, having previously received the national Harold W. McGraw Jr. Prize in Education for her pioneering efforts, as well as the California Council on Teacher Education's Distinguished Teacher Educator Award.

ACSA's own collaboration with the New Teacher Center – the ACSA/New Teacher Center Leadership Coaching Program – continues to grow, with the number of local programs more than doubling between 2006-07 and 2007-08. In addition, the number of Coaching Leaders to Attain Student Success trainings have doubled: from four in 2006-07 to 8 in 2007-08, with an 89 percent increase in the number of people taking CLASS trainings.

"I am proud of ACSA's relationship with the New Teacher Center and delighted for the Santa Cruz/Silicon Valley project to be recognized for its important efforts on behalf of new teachers," said Mike Bossi, director of leadership coaching.