



240 S. Euclid Street
Anaheim, CA 92802
Phone: (714) 635-9622
Fax: (714) 635-8151

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**Contact: Lynn Penkingcarn
Communications Assistant
(714) 635-9622
lpenkingcarn@anaheimymca.org**

Anaheim Achieves Site Supervisor Honored As Outstanding Character Educator

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Anaheim Achieves Site Supervisor Brenda Larson will be honored as an Outstanding Character Educator on Sunday, Oct. 15, 2006 at the Laguna Hills Community Center. The award is being presented by The Passkeys Foundation, Jefferson Center for Character Education, in cooperation with the Orange County Department of Education.

Larson is a site supervisor in the Anaheim Achieves after-school program at two Magnolia School District schools, Walt Disney and Mattie Lou Maxwell. Larson regularly implements literature-based character education in the after-school curriculum, and provides staff development and training for personnel at 34 Anaheim Achieves sites. “Demonstrating character is a way of life; it becomes part of you,” Larson said, when learning of her selection.

Through a federally-funded grant received by the Orange County Department of Education’s program, Larson completed a four-year training program as a Fellow of the Institute for Character Education. In addition, she is a certified staff trainer of the “Don’t Laugh at Me” anti-bullying curriculum.

Donna Frey, another Fellow graduate of the Institute and Anaheim Achieves site supervisor, received the honor last year for her work in infusing dance and literature with character education. Other Anaheim Achieves Fellows are Erica Chappell, Kirk Giroux and Teresa Ayon.

Now in its eighth year, the Anaheim Achieves after-school program provides a safe and supervised environment for 4,000 kids each day to focus on academics, participate in fitness and enrichment programs, build healthy relationships with peers and mentors, and develop good character traits. To learn more about the Anaheim Achieves after-school program, contact Senior Program Director Debbie Jauch at (714) 635-9622 or djauch@anaheimymca.org.

The award-winning Anaheim Achieves after-school program is a community collaboration of the Anaheim Family YMCA, Anaheim City School District, Magnolia School District, Anaheim Union High School District, City of Anaheim, the California and Orange County Departments of Education, and many others.

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