



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

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### **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR MONTEREY COUNTY TO HONOR LOCAL TEACHERS APRIL 28 AT THE ALLEN S. GRIFFIN AND MILDRED WILLEMSSEN AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING**

**Seaside, CA**—The Community Foundation for Monterey County will present twenty-one Monterey Peninsula area teachers with awards for demonstrating a high standard of sustained excellence in teaching, making positive impacts on both their students and fellow educators, and serving their communities off campus. The invitation-only awards ceremony for the teachers, their families, guests, school officials and elected officials will take place on Wednesday, April 28 from 4:00-6:00 PM at the Embassy Suites in Seaside.

The awards to be presented are the Allen S. Griffin Awards for excellence in teaching at the High School through Post Secondary School levels, and the Mildred Willemsen Awards for excellence in Middle School and Elementary School teaching. The Community Foundation serves as a charitable giving vehicle for donors and a funding resource for non-profit agencies in Monterey County and administers both the Allen S. Griffin Fund and the Willemsen Family Fund.

The Allen S. Griffin Award, established in 1982, was created by a bequest from the late Col. Allen Griffin, founder and former publisher of *The Herald*, soldier and civic leader, and one of the founders and former board president of the Community Foundation for Monterey County. The Griffin awards honor teachers with a record of sustained excellence in the classroom and significant impact in the community.

The Mildred Willemsen awards were established by name in 2005 when the family chose to honor their late mother and grandmother by continuing the tradition of the Community

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## **Community Foundation Presents 2010 Teaching Awards, cont.**

Foundation's elementary school teaching awards. They are designed to stimulate and reward excellence in classroom teaching at the elementary and middle school levels in public schools on the Monterey Peninsula. Mildred "Mid" Willemsen retired to Monterey County following a life-long career as an elementary school teacher.

The 2010 Teaching Award honorees are as follows:

**ALLEN S. GRIFFIN AWARD for High School:** Mr. Marc Stafford (Carmel High School – US History & AVID), Ms. Lizabeth Koenig (Marina High School – Mathematics), Mr. Peter Tarantino (Monterey High School – Social Studies), Ms. Kathleen Selfridge (Pacific Grove High School – English Literature)

**ALLEN S. GRIFFIN AWARD for Post Secondary School:** Patsy Tinsley McGill, Ph.D. (CSUMB – Strategic Management), Mr. Yaniv Oded (DLI - Hebrew), Mr. Pablo Marcelo Oliva (MIIS – Spanish and Hispanic Studies), Mr. Mark Jenkins (MPC - ESL), Ms. Nancy M. Haegel (NPS – Physics)

**MILDRED WILLEMSSEN AWARD for Middle School:** Mr. Stefan Mayer (Carmel Middle School – Mathematics & Computer Science), Ms. Gloria Bernabe (Fitch Middle School – Mathematics), Ms. Sarah E. Messick (King Middle School – Mathematics and Algebra), Ms. Shannon Lueken (Los Arboles Middle School – Transitional English and ELD), Ms. Dessy Murphy (Pacific Grove Middle School – Physical Education)

**MILDRED WILLEMSSEN AWARD for Elementary School:** Ms. Erika Arquilla (Bay View – Kindergarten and First Grade), Ms. Ellen Collord (Colton K-5 – Music), Ms. Karen O'Riley (Del Rey Woods Elementary – Fifth Grade), Ms. Kyra Shugars (La Mesa Elementary – Kindergarten), Mr. Joseph Marcelin-Sampson (Ord Terrace Elementary – Kindergarten and First Grade), Ms. Nancy Cook Spade (Robert Down School – Second Grade), Ms. Vickie Warner (Tularcitos School – Second Grade)

The mission of the Community Foundation for Monterey County is to improve the quality of life in Monterey County by raising, managing, and distributing charitable funds to qualified organizations and by creating positive connections between donors and their interests. For more information on the Community Foundation for Monterey County, please call (831) 375-9712 or visit our website at [www.cfmco.org](http://www.cfmco.org).

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