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**Mission Federal Credit Union, Cox and Junior Achievement
Announce Results for Countywide Teachers “Thank You” Contest**
*17 local teachers and 10 schools are honored in award-winning initiative to promote the
important role teachers have on San Diego County students*

San Diego, Calif. (March 12, 2014) – The results are in! **Mission Federal Credit Union, Cox and Junior Achievement** announce the results of the “I’m Thankful for My Teacher” campaign, which is designed to give parents and students an opportunity to thank the teachers in their lives for their hard work, dedication, enthusiasm, support and willingness to go the extra mile for students and families throughout San Diego County.

The campaign, now in its fifth year, continues to exceed expectations with students sending in an impressive **6,623 thank-you notes to 500 teachers at 100 different schools** throughout San Diego – that’s nearly 40,000 thank you cards over the past five years!

“Teachers are making a difference each day in the lives of San Diego’s students” said Angie Lasagna, Vice President of External Affairs for Mission Fed. “San Diego students countywide shared their heartfelt words and appreciation for teachers who are making a positive difference throughout the County. We know that this effort will increase the morale of teachers who have been repeatedly affected by local district budget cuts.

The top eight winning elementary, middle, charter and high school teachers who received the most thank-you notes were given a \$100 Visa gift card to reward them for all of their hard work. Additionally, the students in the classes of the winning teachers will receive a fun classroom party or field trip of their choice and the invaluable gift of Junior Achievement’s award-winning financial education curriculum taught in their classroom, compliments of Mission Federal Credit Union. Mission Fed has also rewarded the top ten schools that turned in the most thank-you notes or with the highest participation percentages with \$200 School Spirit Awards, and special Outstanding Teacher Dedication Award prizes are planned for 10 additional deserving teachers based on the compelling content of the thank you cards.

Below is a complete list of this year’s winning teachers and respective schools.

Highest Teacher Recognition and Classes

Elementary School:

1. Tamara Vaughan – Ericson Elementary, San Diego Unified School District
2. Azucena Velazquez – Montgomery Elementary, Chula Vista Unified School District

Middle School:

1. Leslie Garcia – Montgomery Middle, Sweetwater Union High School District
2. Christina Wurtz - Montgomery Middle, Sweetwater Union High School District

High School:

1. Adrian Lindeen – Grossmont High School, Grossmont Union High School District
2. Callie Tuck – Escondido Community Day School, Escondido Union High School District

Charter/Home/Private/Internet School:

1. Scott Lyons – Chula Vista Learning Community Charter, Chula Vista Elementary School District
2. Elaine Arbuthnot – St. Michael’s Academy, Catholic Diocese

School Spirit Awards

1. Palomar Elementary - Chula Vista Elementary School District
2. Pacific Rim Elementary - Carlsbad Unified School District
3. Cadman Elementary – San Diego Unified School District
4. Park Dale Lane Elementary – Encinitas Unified School District
5. Mason Elementary – San Diego Unified School District
6. Lincoln Acres Elementary – National School District
7. El Toyon Elementary – National Elementary District
8. Rancho de la Nacion Elementary - National District
9. Orange Glen Elementary – Escondido Union School District
10. Montgomery Middle - Cajon Valley Union School District

Outstanding Teacher Dedication Awards

1. Scott Lyons – Chula Vista Learning Community Charter, Chula Vista Elementary School District
2. Paige Rollins – Del Mar Heights Elementary, Del Mar Unified School District
3. Jamie Cozens – Pacific Rim Elementary, Carlsbad Unified School District
4. Michael McElman – River Valley Charter, Lakeside Union School District
5. Claudia Saipe – Cadman Elementary, San Diego Unified School District
6. Alexis Melrose – Mira Mesa High School, San Diego Unified School District
7. Tina Carpenter – Central Elementary, South Bay Unified School District
8. Janie Cox – Hilltop Elementary, Chula Vista Elementary School District
9. Kristen Maduena – Rancho de la Nacion Elementary, National School District
10. Miguel Serrano – Oneonta Elementary, South Bay Union School District

In its initial year (2008), the “I’m Thankful for My Teacher” campaign garnered two prestigious national and international awards from the Credit Union National Association for top community campaign and a **MetLife Foundation Entrepreneurial Award**, which donated \$25,000 to Junior Achievement San Diego Imperial Counties, and encouraged implementation of the thank-you campaign as a best practice in conjunction with Junior Achievement chapters throughout the United States and globally.

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About Mission Federal Credit Union:

Mission Federal Credit Union is a not-for-profit organization providing a wide variety of financial services to meet the needs of its customers. With more than \$2.4 billion in assets, over 20 local branches, and more than 167,000 members, Mission Fed is the largest, locally based credit union exclusively serving San Diego County. Mission Fed enhances the lives of its customers through financial education and financial services. In addition, Mission Fed contributes to hundreds of non-profit educational and community organizations. At Mission Fed, your success is our bottom line. To learn more, visit www.MissionFed.com.

About Junior Achievement:

Junior Achievement of San Diego and Imperial Counties prepares students in both counties for future economic achievement and success through its local in-school and hands-on programs. Junior Achievement of San Diego and Imperial Counties reaches nearly 40,000 students in grades K-12 annually. For more information on programs in San Diego and Imperial Counties, visit www.jasandiego.org.