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Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce toasts top teachers
Annual awards dinner celebrates excellence in education

The Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce is inviting businesses and the community to support education by toasting a teacher at its annual Outstanding Educational Program Awards Dinner.

The event will celebrate excellence in education by recognizing remarkable academic programs at 6 p.m. May 8 at the La Costa Resort and Spa, 2100 Costa del Mar Road, Carlsbad. During the dinner, awards will be given in four categories, including The Arts and best Entrepreneurial, Innovative and Science programs.

The Arts is a new category this year. It was added because visual and performing arts are often overlooked, but very important, components of learning that enhance culture in our community.

The evening also will honor the teacher of the year from each Carlsbad school and the overall teacher of the year from the Carlsbad Unified and Encinitas Union school districts.

“Our goal is to pay tribute to the other unsung heroes in our community – teachers. This is the perfect time to celebrate the outstanding quality of education that Carlsbad students receive,” said Toni Padron, the chamber’s executive vice president and chief operating officer. “This event illustrates the chamber’s commitment to fostering a partnership between business and education.”

Winners and finalists also are awarded funds up to \$500 to put toward the programs, which range from a two-week, school-wide exploration of the marine environment to using guitars in the classroom to engage students in general studies curriculum through song-based learning.

Help the Carlsbad Chamber and its Partners in Education Foundation recognize extraordinary educators by attending the event, sponsoring a school or purchasing a corporate table. **Those who want to support education must register no later than April 22.** Business attire is suggested.

The cost is \$100 per person or \$975 for a table of 10, of which two seats will sponsor award finalists. Event sponsorship opportunities also are available.

The evening will include entertainment provided by local students, a presentation of finalist programs, a reception featuring displays of Carlsbad school programs and a gourmet dinner at an exclusive resort. Approximately 380 people, including business leaders, educators, elected officials and community members, attended the awards dinner last year.

The program sponsors are CDS Printing, La Costa Resort and Spa, Legoland California, Life Technologies Corp., RAM Enterprises International, Sylvan Learning Center and Tri-City Medical Center. This year's Partners in Education sponsor is NRG West – Carlsbad Energy Center.

The Partners in Education Foundation is a private, nonprofit fundraising organization that promotes and supports children in the Carlsbad area. Its primary purpose is to solicit and distribute funds for the benefit of public schools that serve the city of Carlsbad.

For more information about the awards dinner, call Toni Padron at (760) 931-8400 or visit www.carlsbad.org.

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