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**Fullerton School Superintendent Honored for Innovative Leadership
*Orange County Business, Education & Community Leaders Convene to Discuss
Economic Competitiveness***

Irvine, CA, May 19, 2006 – Project Tomorrow, the national education nonprofit group based in Irvine, hosted the first Innovation in Education Summit in Orange County today, bringing together business, education, community, policy and parent leaders to discuss what improvements are needed in science, math and technology education to retain the county's economic competitive edge. Additionally, in conjunction with AeA (formerly the American Electronics Association), Project Tomorrow recognized four Orange County educators with Innovation in Education awards at AeA's 13th annual High Tech Awards Dinner on Thursday, May 18th. John Gage, Chief Researcher at Sun Microsystems and Project Tomorrow Board Member, was the keynote speaker at the black tie Awards Dinner.

This year's Project Tomorrow Innovation in Education awards recognized a school district superintendent for district leadership, a school principal for a school wide program and two high impact teachers whose efforts drove increased student achievement. Every school (public and private) and district in Orange County was eligible to submit nominations. An independent review panel of national and local education and business leaders selected this year's award recipients. The 2006 Innovation in Education Awards were presented to:

Dr. Cameron M. McCune
Superintendent, Fullerton School District (Fullerton, CA)
District Leadership of the Year in Science, Math and Technology

Dan Sullivan
Principal, Trabuco Hills High School (Mission Viejo, CA)
Innovative School Program of the Year in Science, Math and Technology

Kathryn Fliegler
Science Teacher, Trabuco Hills High School (Mission Viejo, CA)
High Impact Teacher of the Year in Science, Math and Technology

Randy Hudson
Science Teacher, Dana Hills High School (Dana Point, CA)
High Impact Teacher of the Year in Science, Math and Technology

Each of this year's award winners understands that education must prepare today's students to become tomorrow's innovators, leaders and engaged citizens so that Orange County's business community can compete in the global economy. For example, Dr. McCune's commitment to engaging students in 21st century learning is evident by his district's nationally recognized one-to-one laptop program which provides over 2,000 students with 24/7 access to technology for instruction, homework and personal productivity.

Over 160 Orange County education, business, community and policy leaders participated in the first ever Innovation in Education Summit on Friday, May 19 at the Westin South Coast Plaza Hotel in Costa Mesa. Headlining the Summit was **Ken Kay**, national strategist on 21st century learning and business-education collaborations, and President, Partnership for 21st Century Skills. Panelists and other speakers included **Assemblywoman Lynn Daucher** (72nd CA State Assembly District), **Orange County Superintendent Bill Habermehl**, **Christine McCauley**, Edwards LifeSciences, **Steve Chesser**, The Boeing Company, **Tim Jemal**, AeA (American Electronics Association), **Dr. Edward Hernandez, Jr.**, Rancho Santiago Community College District, our new Innovation in Education award winners and several local high school students.

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“The goal of the Summit is to identify key components of a new countywide action plan for insuring that today’s students have the skills and experiences required for the jobs of tomorrow, said Julie Evans, Project Tomorrow CEO. This Summit is the start of a new era in Orange County with business and education working together to insure that our companies have the workforce they need to compete in the new global economy.”

Results and recommendations from the first Innovation in Education Summit will be available in the next few weeks on Project Tomorrow’s website, www.Tomorrow.org.

Also released at the Summit was the new **Orange County Speak Up 2005 report** done in conjunction with the Orange County Department of Education. Last fall, over 16,000 K-12 students and 491 teachers from Orange County participated in the national NetDay Speak Up research study of student and teacher views on technology, science education and 21st century learning. This new report summarizes the data from Orange County and compares it to the national Speak Up results. NetDay Speak Up is an annual research initiative of Project Tomorrow. Since 2003, over 562,000 K-12 students and 26,000 teachers nationwide have participated in the annual online surveys, which influence federal, state and local policies and programs on education and technology.

The 2006 Innovation in Education Summit was sponsored by **Washington Mutual, Joel and Judy Slutzky, The Boeing Company, International Rectifier, Orange County Community Foundation, Orange County Department of Education, Orange County Teachers Federal Credit Union, Plasticolor Molded Products, Inc. and Southern California Edison** with special support from the **Samueli Foundation**.

For more information about the Innovation in Education Award winners and the Innovation Summit, please visit <http://tomorrow.org/innovationsummit2006.html>. For more information about the Speak Up reports, please visit www.netday.org/speakup_2005.htm.

About Project Tomorrow

Project Tomorrow (www.tomorrow.org), a national education nonprofit organization headquartered in Orange County, supports innovative, research-based uses of science, math and technology resources to develop critical thinking, problem solving and creativity in K-12 students. The new Project Tomorrow was formed in fall of 2005 with the merger of NetDay, a national education technology nonprofit group, with an Orange County based science education nonprofit, also called Project Tomorrow.

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