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**ALAMDEN COUNTRY SCHOOL TEACHER, COSMO MEJIA,
HONORED BY RBC WEALTH MANAGEMENT TRIBUTE TO TEACHERS**

JUNE 25, 2010 — Almaden Country School, preschool thru eight grade independent school in San Jose, is proud to announce that seventh-grade-teacher Cosmo Mejia was recognized as an outstanding educator in the RBC Wealth Management Tribute to Teachers competition.

RBC's award thanks teachers for their tireless dedication, exemplary leadership and outstanding performance and recognizes that our educators truly accomplish giant things — for our students, our schools and our communities.

Mr. Mejia was one of four Bay Area teachers recognized from a pool of nearly 50 finalists. This inspired and humble educator was honored for his initiative in developing the school's Social Justice elective and developing the new Leadership and Service graduation requirement with his colleagues.

“The Social Justice elective was inspired by several classes I taught at a summer program called ‘Aim High’ in East Palo Alto,” said Mr. Mejia. “Essentially, the class is designed for middle school students to explore what they perceive to be unjust in today's society. I emphasize to all my students that they are our world's future leaders, and that they have a responsibility to understand the people they will lead, and the plight they all face.”

Mr. Mejia has been at ACS for three years and has been described as “upbeat, courteous and reflective.” He is working on his Masters in Education at National University with a concentration on multicultural teaching.

“Mr. Mejia proposed [the social justice elective] because he felt our students needed exposure to issues that shape the world and impact our lives — not necessarily *their* world right now, but the world they're expected to shape and lead,” said Dr. Ole

Jorgenson, head of school and nominator for the award. “This class is about reflection and growth, and it makes me proud to know we're moving in this direction thanks to Mr. Mejia's initiative and leadership.”

The Leadership and Service graduation requirement was the brainchild of several middle school teachers who shared the belief that service is one of the most valuable tools for education and character development. The overall goal is to provide students with exposure to opportunities that aim to produce well-rounded and insightful individuals.

“It is a way to encourage humanitarianism and an outlet for young people to participate in patriotism,” said Mr. Mejia.

The Tribute to Teachers award includes a \$500 grant to apply toward classroom supplies and equipment, which Mr. Mejia has already put to good use.

“The best part about being a teacher at ACS is the feeling that everywhere you go, there is someone there who believes in you,” said a grateful Mr. Mejia.

Almaden Country School is a nonsectarian south San Jose independent school that offers programs for students from 4 years of age through 8th grade. In 2009, ACS was named “Best of Best” by Bay Area Parent magazine. This highly regarded school, which has more than 400 students, believes that each child has unique capabilities and talents. In its 27th year of discovering the gifts in every child, ACS offers Personal Learning Plans for each student; a Character & Competence program for developing strong, ethical leaders; small class sizes; a broad and challenging curriculum; and passionate teachers who share a genuine love of children.

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