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Board of Education Ends the Year with Honors

By Jesse Blake McCann

The El Segundo School Board recognized the achievements of many members of the El Segundo Unified School District at the board meeting on Tuesday, starting with this year's Academic Top Ten at El Segundo High School.

ESHS Principal Jim Garza came before the board to honor the top ten students of the class of 2009. Garza gave a short biography of all the honorees and asked the ones present to join him at the podium.

The Academic Top Ten is actually the top eleven, due to a tie for fifth place. The name and ranking of this school year's students are as follows, starting with the valedictorian: Juan Sierra, Kristen Eggers, Rebecca Campbell, Katherine Lin, Kylie Langlois, Grant McNaughton, Lindsey Saldin, Derek Remsburg, Tracey Thomas, Riley Peck, and Suzanne Lipscomb.

Valedictorian Juan Sierra participated in robotics, kayaking and the British Telecom Project in addition to keeping up with his classes. Sierra will attend the California Institute of Technology and major in Chemical Engineering.

"He's a fantastic ambassador for our school and the district as a whole," Garza said.

Salutatorian Kristen Eggers was raised in Hawthorne and El Segundo and attended ESHS all four years. She was part of the marching band and concert band for four years. She was a member of numerous clubs and groups: Interact Club, Surf Rider, Biology Club, and Spanish Club. She was also a mentor for elementary school band students. She will be moving on to the University of California Santa Barbara and majoring in Biology.

The Academic Top Ten is figured out with a ranking system.

"There is formula that we do utilize, and it's a very, very competitive process," Garza said.

The formula takes all the 4.0 students and comes up with a certain amount number of points for each pupil based on the number of advance high school classes they have taken. The student with the highest sum of these grade level points is the valedictorian.

Garza said there were over 39 students who had a 4.0 and above.

"It's a testament to their hard work and dedication, and they're an outstanding bunch of students," Garza said.

The high number of students who received a 4.0 or higher is not because the high school "water-downed the curriculum," Garza explained.

"These are driven individuals," he said, "They take the most rigorous courses available to them and maximize their talents."

Board of Education honors ESUSD employees for years of service

The ESUSD Service Award Honorees were also recognized at the board meeting. This award honors district employees who have dedicated years of service to the district.

"Those employees who dedicate years of service really impact the overall culture of the district," Director of Human Resources

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El Segundo Varsity Softball Reaches CIF Final



ESHS Varsity Softball comes in second in Division IV. Photo by Marcy Dugan. www.marcyduganphoto.com

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People Go "Vroom!" for Education! El Segundo Educational Foundation 2nd Annual Benefit Car Show

By Jesse Blake McCann

El Segundo resident Lacy Cook, 57, may have driven family cars for most of his life, but there was a certain car of a different class he had wanted since he was 15 years old. Then, about five years ago, when his boys were grown and he could afford it, he decided to buy his dream car of about forty years: a 1967 Pontiac GTO. \$20,000 later, Cook drives around what he calls "the first muscle car."

But besides cruising the city, what else is there to do with such a great classic car? Why, put it on display in car shows, of course!

Cook's Pontiac was one of the 92 submissions to be shown at the El Segundo Educational Foundation 2nd Annual Benefit Car Show. For the past two years, the Automobile Driving Museum, at 610 Lairport Street in El Segundo, has hosted this event. The foundation got in the passenger seat with the museum and took a ride to raise money for education.

"I think we have a responsibility as members of the community to help [with] the funding of education," Jeff Walker, executive director of the museum, said.

Admission price for the event and the entry fee for the vehicles submitted for the show went toward the El Segundo Educational Foundation.

The museum's outside lots were lined with many types of classic vehicles. The submissions were from all over Southern California, according to Dick Croxall, co-chair of the event and lead docent at the museum.

Many awards were given out to the show vehicles. There were twelve award categories, most with first and second places. Nine of the awards were based on the best vehicle in a certain class, such as the

best hot rod, vintage car, and motorcycle. The three other awards were the People's Choice, the Sponsor's Choice, and Best in Show. The Best in Show award this year went to Manhattan Beach resident Gus Ludwig's 1954 Jaguar XK140 FHC. Ludwig's Jag also won first place in the Sports Car Pre-1975 category.

While experts handled the decision-making for the other awards, the People's Choice was the only award decided by votes from attendees.

"It often is different than any of the other winners, interestingly enough," Croxall said.

This year was no exception. Los Angeles resident Dan Horwood's 1968 Jaguar E-Type Roadster was selected by the car

show voters, although it did not win the award in its own class.

The Sponsor's Choice was given to Robert Miller of Redondo Beach for his 1968 Chevy Camaro SS. This award was presented by a panel of judges lead by football celebrity Anthony Davis, who had played at USC from 1972-1974.

"He signed autographs and was well received at the show," Croxall said.

There was an additional reason for attendees to come to the benefit car show.

"You get to see these cars that are brought in specifically for the event, but they also get to see the museum and what they offer," El Segundo Educational Foundation

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State of the City 2009

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El Segundo is a leader in conservation and preserving the environment and has been for some time. Our conservation efforts, from dramatic reductions in greenhouse gases to an essential need to reduce our water use, have always been priorities in our city. Thanks to Raytheon, by the way, for installing a brand-new system to use reclaimed water throughout their campus. Thanks also to West Basin Municipal Water District for making that possible. Moving water around uses nineteen percent of the electricity consumed in California and projects like Raytheon's go a long way toward saving a lot of energy.

Because more than half the water that the city uses is reclaimed, we saved over 22 million kilowatt-hours of power last year. So it was no surprise that El Segundo got an Honorable Mention Flex

Your Power award from the state.

We didn't stop there. The city's first-ever environmental expo was a huge success. Retrofitting city facilities for better energy efficiency has saved taxpayers nearly \$2 million so far. And if you haven't seen them yet, check out the 185 trees in downtown El Segundo lit by energy-saving LEDs.

And for the second straight year, our city was tops in California in diverting trash from landfills. Over four out of five tons of refuse that this city generates are recycled or reused.

Education is always important in our city, but schools everywhere in California are in trouble. Our city supported its schools with over \$1.2 million worth of aid in 2008, a record for El Segundo, including supplying the school district's

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