

## PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ROSEVILLE RESIDENT NAMED ROOKIE OF THE YEAR FOR THE PLACER COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

**Auburn, CA**– Placer County Superintendent of Schools Gayle Garbolino-Mojica is pleased to announce Kristina Kress, Roseville resident and teacher for the Placer County Office of Education (PCOE) Intensive Community Action for Responsive Education (iCARE) Come Back Alternative Education Program, as the PCOE “Rookie of the Year.”

“Although Kristina is the PCOE Rookie of the Year, she has been a longtime teacher, mentor and student advocate in Placer County for more than 20 years,” said Superintendent Garbolino-Mojica. “Her dedication to helping others achieve their educational goals is a passion we both share and I’m thrilled Kristina is part of our PCOE team.”



*(Placer County Superintendent of Schools Gayle Garbolino-Mojica pictured with the PCOE Rookie of the Year Kristina Kress.)*

“I’m honored to be recognized for doing something I absolutely love doing,” shared Ms. Kress. “Becoming a teacher for the PCOE Come Back Program has allowed me to walk alongside so many people as they make the choice to change their lives. I get to support amazing women and men so that their opportunities for their future open up. It’s a real gift.”

Ms. Kress has been an educator in Placer County for more than 20 years with experience with at-risk youth. She previously worked for the Roseville City School District. She holds a master’s degree in Special Education from California State University, Sacramento. She is a mom to three teenagers and has been a foster mom to many others. She and her family reside in Roseville and are active in the Roseville High School Athletic Booster Club.



**See why Kristina Kress is #goldineducation – watch the video:**  
<http://bit.ly/KristinaKress>

Each year, the Placer County Office of Education honors its employees for their work performance through Employee of the Year Awards in five categories which include Classified, Certificated, Management, Rookie of the Year and the Superintendent’s Award. Nominations are submitted from peers in the organization and then selected by the leadership team. Those considered for the Rookie of the Year must have been employed with the organization for less than one year and have already made a significant contribution. The PCOE Classified Employee of the Year and the Certificated Employee of the Year then move forward to the county-wide awards program in May.

The iCARE Come Back Program is an independent-study program specifically designed to address the academic needs of adult students who have not completed high school and who wish to obtain a high school diploma. The program reaches students who have "dropped out" or are not currently enrolled in any school or who face particular challenges, such as health issues or the need to work, that make daily school attendance difficult. The iCARE Come Back Program educates students who have fallen behind in their studies, provides opportunities and resources to increase career/workforce readiness skills, provides individualized instruction and assists students in achieving a high school diploma.

Under the leadership of the Placer County Superintendent of Schools Gayle Garbolino-Mojica and the County Board of Education, PCOE serves as the link between the California Department of Education and the 16 local school districts in Placer County. PCOE's role includes approval of local school district budgets to ensure sound fiscal operation, reviewing and approving Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAPs), and developing professional development and educational opportunities for educators. In addition to providing services to local school districts, PCOE also operates educational programs that provide services directly to students such as special education programs for students with rare disabilities and alternative education programs for students who have been expelled or probation referred.

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**About Placer County Office of Education**

*Nestled in the Sierra Foothills, Placer County Office of Education (PCOE) serves over 68,000 students in sixteen individual school districts across Placer County. In order to serve the students of Placer County, PCOE provides an array of programs and service to meet student needs. This task is accomplished by providing high quality specialized programs for students; recruiting, retaining, and developing highly qualified staff; and monitoring fiscal accountability and expenditures of our tax dollars. For more information, please visit [www.placercoe.k12.ca.us](http://www.placercoe.k12.ca.us).*