

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2019

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PLACER COUNTY STUDENTS SHINED AT THE “DENIM & DIAMONDS” SPECIAL EDUCATION PROM

Auburn, CA – Tuxedos, ball gowns, boutonnieres and smiles took center stage at the Placer County Office of Education (PCOE) Special Education “Denim & Diamonds” Prom on Wednesday. Held at the Blue Goose Event Center in Loomis, more than 30 students with special needs enjoyed an unforgettable day filled with dancing, music, food and celebration.

“This is what education in Placer County is all about,” said Placer County Superintendent of Schools Garbolino-Mojica. “Prom is an opportunity for students to connect with their peers and celebrate their accomplishments. This experience is extra special for our students with special needs who might not otherwise experience this high school rite of passage.”

The students are enrolled in a PCOE Special Education program which serves students whose needs require a specialized program not offered in their local districts. These students, infant through 22 years of age, include students who are multiply disabled, orthopedically disabled, hearing and visually impaired, students who are emotionally disturbed and students with autism.

“Prom is one of the most memorable days for our students and families, and each student deserves a day like today,” said PCOE Executive Director for Special Education Theresa Prestedge. “It took the commitment and dedication of so many people, like our Program Coordinator Heidi Peacock-Morrow and countless others, who care deeply about our students and about education.”

In addition beautiful flower centerpieces and decorations, the PCOE Speech-Language Pathology team also developed core language boards for staff to model communication for our non-verbal students. There was also a quiet room provided in the back for those who need a break from the excitement.

The PCOE Special Education Prom is made possible through a generous donation from the late Virgil Harrigan, who bequeathed more than \$5.5 million from his estate to several local charities following his death in January 2009.



FOR MEDIA: High-res images attached.

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About Placer County Office of Education

Situated 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. For more information, please visit www.placercoe.k12.ca.us.

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