



EMBARGOED UNTIL  
May 17, 2005, 8 PM EST

Contact:  
Victoria Sackett  
703.276-2772 ext.20

## **San Jose Principal Peggy Bryan Named One of Nation's Most Innovative Education Leaders**

### **Sherman Oaks Community Charter School Head Receives 2005 Cable's Leaders in Learning Award**

#### **Media Note: Awardees are in Washington, DC through May 18 To arrange interviews or receive digital photographs, call contact**

**Washington, DC** – For finding a way to provide ongoing training for K-6 teachers without taking them off-campus or disrupting the academic schedule – a move that has helped raise student achievement and the school's state ranking – Peggy Bryan is being honored nationally for her substantial contributions to learning in San Jose.

Comcast Bay Area and Cable in the Classroom, the cable industry's education foundation, announced today that Bryan is a winner of the new *Cable's Leaders in Learning Award*, which recognizes the most inventive classroom educators, administrators, community leaders, and policymakers who are transforming education from Kindergarten through high school (K-12).

"To be selected as *Cable's Leaders in Learning Award* winners, these awardees demonstrated dedication to improving learning for all children," said Helen Soulé, Ph.D., executive director of Cable in the Classroom. "They did this by reaching beyond the familiar to support and encourage young people to achieve their best. Armed with a high quality education, young people will be prepared to meet the world that awaits them – and to improve and transform it for their own children."

Bryan is being recognized in the General Excellence award category for creating Project ALAS, a model of professional development that offers teachers the time they need for training while not changing the structure of the school day or week. The key to the project's success is the Mid-Day Block, from 11 am to 12:30 pm, when all teachers participate in formal staff training while students eat lunch, have study period, or take part in fitness activities.

Over the past two years of the ALAS project, Sherman Oaks Community Charter School has moved from one of the lowest state rankings to a mid-point, and it has jumped an average of 70 points per year on the

-more-

## Page 2 – San Jose Principal Wins National Award

state Academic Performance Index. In 2002-2003, the school had the highest gain of any school in the state.

“As an urban school with mostly low-income children who are learning English, we keep searching for the best teaching and learning strategies on the face of the planet,” said Bryan. “What we are about is continuing that quest and asking others to join us on the journey.”

Bryan and the other *Leaders in Learning Award* winners are in Washington, D.C. this week to attend a gala awards ceremony, to meet with Members of Congress and education leaders, and to participate in a series of professional development events. Awardees receive a cash prize from Cable in the Classroom, in addition to the trip to Washington.

The awards ceremony, hosted by Bill Kurtis, host of A&E’s *American Justice* and producer of *Investigative Reports* and *Cold Case Files*, will take place on May 17 at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian. CNN anchor Wolf Blitzer will interview award-winners during the awards presentations. Marc Summers, host of *Unwrapped* on the Food Network, John Anderson, an ESPN *Sportscenter* anchor, and Jeff Johnson, host of the BET documentary series *The Cousin Jeff Chronicles*, will present the awards. Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert will receive a tribute from the cable industry.

“We hope that these awards, and the exceptional work on behalf of learning they honor, will move others to strive for similar excellence and stretch the boundaries of the kind of excellence that is possible in education,” said Soulé. “We at Cable in the Classroom will always have that – and these awardees – close to the heart of our mission.”

The awards fall into four categories:

- **General Excellence** – Awards given for general excellence in education.
- **Pushing the Envelope** – Awards given to those redefining the education frontier by using cable content or cable technology.
- **Policymaker** – Awards given to federal, state, or local policymakers who have contributed to the improvement of K-12 education in the broadest sense.
- **Media literacy** – An award given in partnership with the National PTA to recognize excellence in advancing media literacy skills.

For more information about *Cable’s Leaders in Learning Awards*, please visit [www.ciconline.org](http://www.ciconline.org) or [www.leadersinlearningawards.org](http://www.leadersinlearningawards.org).

