



December 12, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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State Superintendent Jack O'Connell Visits Rocklin Academy **Rocklin Academy Receives National Shirley Hord Award**

Rocklin, CA – State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell met with school leaders and students at the Rocklin Academy Meyers Street campus Friday to learn more about the public charter school's award winning academic program. Earlier this week an international association of learning educators, Learning Forward (*formerly National Staff Development Council*), and Corwin, a producer of multimedia resources for professional development, awarded Rocklin Academy the first *Shirley Hord Learning Team Award*. An official Core Knowledge visitation site, Rocklin Academy earned the award after submitting a video and documentation demonstrating how teachers at its two K-6 charter school campuses work together in collaborative learning teams to study and implement research-based instructional strategies, ensuring high levels of student academic success.

"We are honored to have Mr. O'Connell as our guest at Rocklin Academy and show him firsthand the product of teachers engaging in professional learning everyday so that every student achieves," said Steven Carney, Rocklin Academy director of education.

The Learning Team Award includes sponsorship of three Rocklin Academy educators at this week's Learning Forward's 2010 Annual Conference, \$2,500 to support collaborative professional learning and a gift of Corwin books for the charter school's professional library.

O'Connell toured Rocklin Academy classrooms and met with Rocklin Academy and Western Sierra Collegiate Academy district officials. Western Sierra is a tuition-free 7-12 charter created by the families of Rocklin Academy.

Authorized under the Charter School Act of 1992 and chartered by the Rocklin Unified School District, Rocklin Academy Turnstone and Meyers campuses are tuition-free public elementary schools open to all students. Rocklin Academy is the first public school in the greater Sacramento area to offer the nationally recognized Core Knowledge curriculum. The Meyers campus also offers families a full-day Kindergarten program. In August 2009, Western Sierra Collegiate Academy opened in Rocklin, continuing the tradition of excellence in education by offering college preparatory classes open to all students. Western Sierra is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and currently serves 234 students in seventh through 10th grades and will expand to 12th grade by 2012.

About Learning Forward (formerly National Staff Development Council)

Learning Forward's purpose is ensuring that every educator engages in effective professional learning every day so every student achieves. Learning Forward is a nonprofit international association of learning educators focused on increasing student achievement through more effective professional development. To learn more about the impact of high-quality professional learning, visit www.learningforward.org.