



For Immediate Release

Contacts:

Linda Mayo, VP for communications
(916) 261-1715; communications@capta.org

Alison apRoberts, Communications Manager
(916) 261-5286; aaproberts@capta.org

PRESS RELEASE

May 1, 2010

Superintendent honored at convention

Jack O'Connell awarded PTA's Life Achievement Award at California convention

SACRAMENTO – Jack O'Connell, California Superintendent of Public Instruction, was awarded the National PTA Life Achievement Award, the highest honor conferred by the nation's largest child advocacy association.

The award was presented amid applause and a standing ovation at the California State PTA's 111th Annual Convention, attended by thousands of PTA members and delegates. The convention runs through Sunday morning at the Sacramento Convention Center.

"This is a rare honor, reserved for those who live out their commitment to children in their daily lives. I know that Jack fully meets that very high standard," said Jo A. S. Loss, president of the California State PTA, while presenting the award this morning. "Jack has been a steadfast champion for all the children of California, as well as a great supporter and member of PTA. I'm very proud to have this opportunity to honor him."

O'Connell returned the association's warm regard.

"The children of California need caring, informed advocates speaking up for their needs and rights more than ever before," O'Connell said. "The California State PTA provides a much-needed voice for children, and will continue to do so."

The annual convention, which started April 29 and runs through Sunday morning, is the premier annual event for the California State PTA, the state's largest and oldest children's advocacy association, with nearly 1 million members. The gathering focuses on training, with more than 70 workshops covering hot topics affecting children and families, networking and inspiration as PTA delegates celebrate past accomplishments and make plans for the future, including voting on policy resolutions that guide the work of the association.

everychild.onevoice.

The California State PTA has nearly 1 million members throughout the state working on behalf of public schools, children and families, with the motto, "Every child, one voice." The PTA is the nation's oldest, largest and highest profile volunteer association working to improve the education, health and welfare of all children and youth. The PTA also advocates at national, state and local levels for education and family issues. The PTA is nonprofit, nonsectarian and noncommercial.

For more information about the California State PTA, visit www.capta.org.