

San Joaquin County Office of Education

James A. Mousalimas, County Superintendent of Schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

017-030: CTE Excellence in Education Award

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SJCOE Welding Instructor Receives CTE Excellence in Education Award

The San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) would like to congratulate mechanical construction and fabrication instructor John Herger for receiving the 2017 Career Technical Education (CTE) Excellence in Education award.

The Annual CTE Excellence in Education Award is given to one San Joaquin County CTE teacher who excels at keeping students engaged and who is able to bring industry experts to the classroom. The recognition was announced on Feb. 7 at the annual CTE Advisory Meeting at the SJCOE. Nearly 200 CTE educators and business professionals attend the meeting once a year to review CTE curriculum.

“It is a wonderful feeling to be recognized for the work that I do, but without the support that I receive from my colleagues and administrators who share the passion and drive to innovate and push our students to perform at higher levels, my hands would be tied,” Herger said. “So to me, this award is proof that going above and beyond really does make a difference when the vision is shared by a group of people.”

Herger, who currently holds a CTE credential in construction and building trades, has been teaching CTE welding courses at Venture Academy Family of Schools (VAFS), a charter school operated by the SJCOE, since 2009. Prior to becoming a CTE instructor Herger worked on farm welding and fabricating. He brings his knowledge and expertise into the classroom daily.

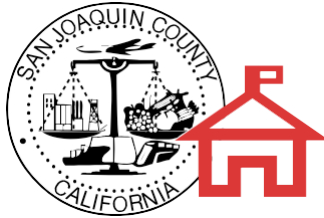
Herger was nominated by SJCOE CTE Director Chris Kleinert. Kleinert writes in the nomination that one of the reasons Herger was chosen is because he is able to access his network of industry professionals in both the San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties and that they act as guest speakers and mentors to the students.

Students in Herger’s class learn to perfect different techniques in welding and have produced many different projects that are featured around the SJCOE campus. After successfully completing the course, many of his students continue to study and work in the industry, according to Kleinert.

For two years, Herger has also been a SkillsUSA adviser.

“The goal of SkillsUSA is to not only teach a marketable skill, but also to inspire students to look ahead and push themselves farther than they thought possible,” Herger explained. SkillsUSA also does a great job in emphasizing the importance of soft skills in the workplace. I feel those skills are just as important as the technical skills they learn in the classroom because they will apply to everything they do in life.”

Last month Herger’s team of students took first place in the Third Annual Welding Showdown held at San Joaquin Delta College and will be recognized by the San Joaquin County Board of Education on Wednesday at the regularly scheduled board meeting. Three years ago, Herger and Michael Costa from Patterson High School started the Annual Welding Showdown because they wanted something that would motivate and reward their students. The event is for CTE students to showcase their welding skills to industry representatives who help judge the competition. This year 35 high school



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students competed.

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About CTE programs:

Career Technical Education (CTE) programs in the secondary grades integrate core academic instruction with technical and occupational instruction in order to increase student achievement, graduation rates, and readiness for postsecondary education and employment. SJCOE's CTE program focuses on preparing students to enter current or emerging high-skill, high-wage, and/or high-demand occupations. CTE opportunities may be offered through linked learning programs, partnership academies, apprenticeship programs or orientation to apprenticeships, regional occupational centers and programs, tech prep programs, charter schools, small learning communities, or other programs that expose students to career options while preparing them for future careers in a given industry or interest area.

About the San Joaquin County Office of Education:

San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) provides educational leadership, resources, and services to support schools throughout the county. With its highly regarded programs, innovative staff and community partnerships, SJCOE ensures that every student in San Joaquin County has the opportunity of a quality education. For more information, visit www.sjcoe.org.