



El Dorado County Office of Education

February 3, 2011

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Remembering Sam Lacara

Sam LaCara has been a beloved educator in the Placerville Union School District for 21 years. Sam first entered into public education in 1988 after earning his Bachelor's of Science degree in Physical Education from California State University, Sacramento and a Single Subject Teaching Credential. In 1989, Sam's first job with the Placerville School District was as a Physical Education Teacher at Markham Middle School. Sam was promoted in 1995, to Assistant Principal at Markham Middle School. In 2003, Sam was again promoted to principal of the Louisiana Schnell Elementary School. Under Sam's leadership, Schnell School received a Title I Academic Achievement Award and also received an honorable mention as a California Distinguished School.

In addition to his outstanding school experiences, Sam was very involved with coaching and working with youth in basketball and track and field. He actually served as a softball Deputy Commissioner and Umpire in Citrus Heights. He also served as an Adult Sports Coordinator at the Sunrise Recreation and Park District earlier in his career.

These facts are things one might place on a resume, but they fall short of capturing the full scope of Sam's influence on the community, public education, and most importantly on the lives of children. Sam had an extensive network of friends and colleagues who affectionately called him "the mayor." This affectionate title referred to the way Sam knew how to get things done in ways to benefit the students he served.

Sam knew each of his students by name, often greeting them with a handshake in the morning and a warm, "Are you ready for school today?" This is just one example of what made him a truly beloved principal and educational leader not only at Schnell School but throughout El Dorado County and the State. Sam's influence on public education extended beyond our local community to numerous statewide associations, including the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), where Sam served as an officer and leader within El Dorado County and throughout the region. We cannot begin to express how deeply he will be missed.

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