

NEWS RELEASE - For immediate release

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Organization: Solano County Office of Education

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Solano County Office of Education Celebrates Another Successful Red Ribbon Week

Solano County, CA- Halloween day wraps another successful red ribbon week in Solano County. The Solano Youth Coalition (SYC), Solano County Friday Night Live (FNL) and the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) celebrated Red Ribbon Week October 23 – 31st. Red Ribbon Week raises awareness of drug use and the problems related to drugs facing our community, and encourages parents, educators, business owners, and other community organizations to promote drug-free lifestyles.

In 1985, Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent Enrique S. "Kiki" Camarena was killed by drug traffickers. Shortly after his death, citizens from his hometown of Calexico, California, began wearing red ribbons to remember him and commemorate his sacrifice. The first official Red Ribbon Week celebration was created by the National Family Partnership in 1988. Since then, the red ribbon has symbolized a continuing commitment to reducing the demand for illicit drugs in our communities. SYC continues to coordinate the campaign for families and communities across the county each year; while Solano FNL Chapters work with school administration to bring the campaign onto their campuses.

"Research shows that young people are less likely to use alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs when parents and other role models provide information about the negative impacts of their use and abuse. It is great to see so many young people and other organizations come together alongside SCOE for Red Ribbon Week to help students be vocal and visible in their efforts to achieve a drug-free community," said Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson.

For more information about how to get involved in Red Ribbon Week, please contact Rebecca Floyd, Project Coordinator, Youth Development, at <u>rfloyd@solanocoe.net</u>.

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Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) provides leadership, support, and fiscal oversight for charter schools and Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo school districts which serve approximately 63,000 students. Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson is elected by voters of Solano County. The Superintendent is a state constitutional officer who serves as the chief executive officer of SCOE and as a liaison between local school districts and the state.