



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Outstanding High School Counselor Honored with 2005 Arthur Marmaduke Award**

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA — The California Student Aid Commission and EDFUND, its student loan auxiliary, announce today that Sally Pace of Woodlake High School, located in Woodlake, California is the recipient of the distinguished 2005-06 Arthur Marmaduke High School Counselor Award. Established by the Commission/EDFUND in 1985, this annual award goes to an outstanding California high school counselor who demonstrates commitment and skill in motivating and helping an exceptional number of graduating high school seniors who receive financial aid for education beyond high school. Pace, who is also retiring this year, was selected from an outstanding field of candidates and will be honored tonight at Woodlake High School near Visalia, California.

Having provided over 32 years of teaching and over 20 years of counseling services to students, Pace is credited with Woodlake High seniors consistently gaining over \$300,000 in college scholarships and financial aid annually. This is an incredible amount of aid given Woodlake High's total student population of approximately 650 students, many from underrepresented socio-economic groups. The demographics of the school reflect the community with 78 percent Latino, 21 percent White and one percent from other ethnicities.

In addition, Woodlake High School was recently one of three high schools nationwide to receive the AP College Board Inspiration Award for providing a learning environment where students from underrepresented socio-economic groups succeeded in applying and being accepted to colleges and universities. This award also validated Pace's extensive work with students over the years.

"It is with heartfelt congratulations that the Commission applauds the remarkable contributions of Sally Pace to the students of Woodlake High School. Ms. Pace has made educational opportunity beyond high school a reality for many Woodlake High School students," said Diana Fuentes-Michel, executive director of the California Student Aid Commission. "With this award, the Commission recognizes the day-by-day, dedicated hard work of California high school counselors as they strive to assist students in reaching their academic and career goals."

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Over her career as a teacher and counselor, Ms. Pace developed a culture of “no excuses” when it comes to setting high expectations for all students. She has been described in a national publication as a “living treasure” for students, parents and the entire community of Woodlake. During her career, she has dealt with all of the barriers that students bring to school including low income, broken families, second language learners, and cultural barriers unique to the demographics of the school. Ms. Pace accepts no excuses from students or parents when dealing with opportunities to attend college.

“High school counselors are a vital link in encouraging students and helping them navigate various financial aid programs for college,” said EDFUND President Sam Kipp. “We’re delighted to congratulate Sally Pace on her outstanding activities that provide financial aid education to Woodlake High’s students and families.”

From the first day a student steps onto the Woodlake campus, that student receives one-on-one personal attention. The Counseling Department lead by Sally Pace starts the learning process with the belief that all students will be prepared academically, socially and financially for college. Ninth graders attend a Careers class and begin to explore and develop ideas on careers and professions, the college admissions process, and financial aid. In addition, Pace has worked closely with department chairs to establish AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) classes at all four grade levels. Since many students at Woodlake High School have no way to drive, or be driven, the 30-50 miles to larger communities to take the PSAT, ACT and SAT series of national tests, Pace has provided for local opportunities to take these tests, providing her students with the scores necessary to apply and qualify for college and financial aid.

“Sally’s leadership has made Woodlake High School a leader in Tulare County and the state’s UC/CSU Preparedness rates for graduating seniors,” said Tim Hire, principal of Woodlake High. “She uses no magical formula for doing this other than her endless passion and energy for all students.”

Arthur Marmaduke served as the executive director of the Commission for 25 years. This award is made in honor of his dedication and commitment in helping students gain access to postsecondary education through the Commission’s many grant, scholarship and loan programs. Sally Pace was presented with a commemorative plaque and a \$1,500 monetary award at tonight’s award ceremony. Visit [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov) and [www.edfund.org](http://www.edfund.org) for information on programs and services available through the Commission and its auxiliary, EDFUND.

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*The California Student Aid Commission is the state’s principal provider of intersegmental statewide grant aid to postsecondary students. Founded in 1955 as the California State Scholarship Commission, the Commission’s primary programmatic responsibilities include operation of the Cal Grant program, which is distributing about \$850 million to California’s college students during the 2005-2006 school year, administration of California’s Chafee Grant Program, and several targeted state scholarship and loan forgiveness programs. Headquartered in Rancho Cordova, California, the 15-member Commission oversees the activities of its nonprofit student loan services auxiliary, EDFUND.*

*EDFUND, a nonprofit public benefit corporation, is the nation’s second largest provider of student loan guarantee services under the Federal Family Education Loan Program. EDFUND offers students a wide range of financial aid and debt management information while supporting schools with advanced loan processing solutions and default prevention techniques. Operating as an auxiliary corporation of the California Student Aid Commission, EDFUND processes more than \$7.8 billion in student loans annually (including consolidation loans) and manages a portfolio of outstanding loans valued at \$26 billion. EDFUND is headquartered in Rancho Cordova, California with regional offices located throughout the nation.*

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