



GROSSMONT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

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BEST BUDDIES: GROSSMONT HIGH SCHOOL CHAPTER HONORED AT INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Honor Highlights Important Role of Peer Mentoring on Campus

(EL CAJON, CA) _Grossmont High School's Best Buddies chapter was recently honored with an *Outstanding Chapter Award* at Best Buddies International's 17th Annual Student Leadership Conference July 21-24, 2006. Grossmont High School was selected as one of 22 outstanding high school chapters from 793 programs throughout the world for its dedication to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships.

"We are thrilled with this honor," said Principal Theresa Kemper. "The Best Buddies program attracts some of our most articulate and upward-bound students who take great pride in assisting their peers." School Board President Jim Kelly added, "This is a win-win for everyone.

Tremendous personal growth occurs as students come together and learn to appreciate and respect one another."

Nearly 1,300 students from around the globe participated in the three-day Best Buddies Student Leadership Conference held at Indiana University earlier this month. Student participants attended a series of interactive workshops focusing on leadership development, community service, civic responsibility and volunteerism. The Conference prepares student leaders to operate a Best Buddies chapter at their school, which involves recruiting new members, planning group activities and promoting social integration in their school communities.

Best Buddies is a nonprofit organization that enhances the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships and integrated employment.

For more information, visit www.bestbuddies.org.

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