



## Mount Miguel and the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism Management



**Jeff Wood, Academy Coordinator and Monica Loyce, Sr. Human Resources Representative, Sea World**



**Jay Guerra 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Mentoring Coordinator and Cindy Napoleon, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Lead Teacher**



**Luis Barrios, General Manager, Hacienda Hotel Old Town, Eric Lund, Executive Director, San Diego East Visitors Bureau and Jim Greene, General Manager, Bahia Resort Hotel**



**Steve Devan, President and CEO Grossmont Schools Federal Credit Union, Natalie Ray, Tech Prep Coordinator, Grossmont/Cuyamaca College District and Joan Hafer, Director II, ROP/CTE Grossmont Union High School District**

I had the privilege of attending the Mount Miguel Academy of Hospitality and Tourism Management Advisory Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 4. The meeting and its participants clearly pointed the way for Career Tech Education (CTE) and its potential to positively affect the lives of thousands of students each year in the Grossmont Union High School District (GUHSD). The Career Tech Education plan, which is currently being developed by GUHSD teachers and administrators under the leadership of Adena Boxer, Director for ROP and CTE, reflects the efforts at Mount Miguel.



**San Diego State University Internship and Placement Director Brian Blake** has provided strong support over the years and is actively working to further develop the Academy Program. The program also has important links to our local community colleges through Natalie Ray, Tech Prep Coordinator for the Grossmont/Cuyamaca College District. Community and State College articulation is a critical element of effective Career Tech Education programs and Mount Miguel's program is a prime example. In many instances, those links have already been developed in programs in our District. In other instances, those linkages need to be further developed.

**Joanne Furer, Visitor Services Manager, Museum of Natural History and Brian Blake, San Diego State University Internship and Placement Director**

The Academy Program began eight years ago under the leadership of Joan Hafer, Mount Miguel's Academy Coordinator from 2000-2006, and Mount Miguel teachers. Supported later by grant funding, the Academy has graduated over 140 students in the last four years who are ready for careers in the third largest industry in the San Diego area. And we're not just talking about rooms and beds. Eric Lund, Director of the San Diego East Visitors Bureau, explained that the industry includes management, accounting, marketing, design, culinary and numerous other professions and careers.

Particularly impressive about the Academy is its tremendous support from businesses throughout East County. Major hotel chains including Sheraton, Hyatt, Hacienda-Old Town (Best Western) and Bahia (Evans) hotels, Barona and Viejas Resorts and Casinos, and San Diego restaurants such as Anthony's Seafood, were active participants on the advisory board. The vision for Career Tech Academies in East County is to establish this type of strong, positive business and civic engagement in a wide range of industry clusters.

While the business engagement is crucial to the success of these academies, without strong teacher leadership they cannot be successful. The Academy of Hospitality and Tourism Management has that teacher leadership. Eleventh grade students presented their experiences at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Hospitality Conference held at Barona Resort and Casino, while Cindy Napoleon, eleventh grade Lead Teacher, and Jeff Wood, Academy Coordinator, commented on the pride they had in the achievements of their students and the relationships they had developed with them. Dressed in professional attire, the students presented with confidence. It is clear the teachers have paid meticulous attention to every aspect of how their students developed while in the program. While it is not possible to mention everyone, I would also like to acknowledge Kim Bellaart, Academic Coordinator, Edel Gleason, Career Technician, Jay Guerra and Andrew Troi, mentoring coordinators, and Ben Smith, Vice Principal. Quality programs depend upon a strong teaching cadre and also on principal leadership. Appreciation also goes to Steve Coover, Principal, for his vision and support of this program.