



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 8, 2006

**Contact:**  
**Amber Moore**  
Tricom Associates  
(703) 276-2772 x17  
amber@tricomassociates.com

**Maria Gladowski**  
Disney Worldwide Outreach  
(818) 560-6360

## **Two San Diego-Area Teachers Win National Disney Education Awards**

### **Teachers from San Diego Chosen From More Than 75,000 Nominees for Inspiring, Creative Classroom Strategies**

**Media Note: Teachers are available for interviews, photos, and classroom visits.  
To make arrangements, please call Tricom contact.**

BURBANK, Calif.— Two San Diego-area teachers have been chosen from more than 75,000 nominees nationwide to receive the 2006 Disney Teacher Award in celebration of their creativity, innovative teaching methods, and ability to inspire their students.

Each of the 44 Disney Teacher Honorees receives \$10,000 from Disney and a trip to the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, Calif., for a week of fun and celebration from July 29 to August 3. In addition, Disney awards \$5,000 to each of their schools.

- **St. Claire Adriaan**, a sixth-grade mathematics teacher at KIPP Adelante Preparatory Academy in **San Diego**, is one of three Honorees being recognized for middle school math education. Creativity is key in Adriaan's classroom. "To explain integers, I begin by reading a fairy tale about a beautiful princess who was forced to marry a really mean prince. The princess has a really positive outlook on life and loves people, nature and life itself. The mean old prince is a very negative person," explained Adriaan. "Somewhere in the fairy tale the princess exclaims, 'I love to love' and 'I hate to hate.' The mean old prince shouts out he 'loves to hate' and 'hates to love'. This forms the basis of my lesson on multiplying and dividing integers. Student knows that love is positive and hate is negative and enjoy using it to solve multiplication and division problems of signed numbers."
- **Carmen Munnelly**, an eighth-grade history teacher at De Portola Middle School in **San Diego**, is one of three Honorees being recognized for middle school humanities education. When asked what she loves about teaching, Munnelly said, "I get to do meaningful work with the most energetic and passionate people on the planet. Middle schoolers are hilarious and have big hearts -- a can't-miss combo."

“Disney is dedicated to brightening the lives of children and we salute dedicated teachers like Mr. Adriaan and Miss Munnelly for using creativity in their classrooms to inspire our children to achieve more than they ever thought possible,” said Terry Wick, vice president of Disney Worldwide Outreach. “We hope communities across the country will join us in thanking all their great teachers this week during Teacher Appreciation Week.”

Disney Teacher Honorees are selected by their peers—representatives of leading educational associations from across the United States and former Disney Teacher Honorees. Honorees come from every subject field and every level of PreK-12 teaching.

The Disney Teacher Awards do not simply honor one teacher, they also make an investment in that teacher’s educational community. In addition to the monetary awards, Disney will also fly each Honoree and his or her principal to the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla., in October for a six-day professional development institute where they can refine their own innovative teaching approaches by sharing ideas and learn how to engage other teachers to build an effective collaborative teaching culture at their school.

Once they return, Adriaan, Munnelly, and their principals will work with experts from the Center for Collaborative Education in Boston to design a schoolwide plan for making teaching more effective. The Honorees will take a leadership role, educating their fellow teachers in the creative techniques that have made them so successful at connecting with students.

During the week of celebratory events in Anaheim, five exceptional teachers will be chosen from the 44 Honorees. Four Outstanding Teachers and one Disney Teacher of the Year will receive an additional \$15,000 from Disney.

#### **About Disney Worldwide Outreach**

The Disney Teacher Awards program is part of Disney Worldwide Outreach. Disney is dedicated to making the wishes of families and children a reality through public service initiatives, community outreach and volunteerism in the areas of compassion, learning, the arts and the environment. In 2005, Disney contributed more than \$190 million in cash, in-kind support and public service air time globally. Disney VoluntEARS, company employees who donate their time to outreach projects, contributed more than 442,000 hours of service. For more information on Disney’s outreach initiatives, please visit [www.disneyhand.com](http://www.disneyhand.com). For more on the Disney Teacher Awards, please visit [www.disneyteacherawards.org](http://www.disneyteacherawards.org).