

# MEEC Pays Tribute to Outstanding Students 🎓 and 2012 Teacher of the Year 🎓

On May 10, 2012, more than 90 educators, students, business and civic leaders turned out for the annual MEEC Teacher and Student of the Year Awards and Recognition Banquet, which took place at the scenic Spring Valley Lake Country Club in Victorville. During the event, Brad Mitzelfelt, who serves as San Bernardino County's First District Supervisor, and Chairman of the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, (MEEC's lead agency) served as Keynote Speaker and presented all winners with a Certificate of Recognition.

MEEC recognized Yvonne Campos, SOAR High School, Lancaster, as MEEC's 2012 Teacher of the Year, and Roger Aburto, Granite Hills High School, Apple Valley, and LaKeysha Mattis, Thomson Elementary School, Barstow, as MEEC's 2012 Teachers of Excellence. The Teacher of the Year received a check for \$300 and a plaque, and each Teacher of Excellence received a check for \$150 and a plaque.



*Teachers Honored: L-R: Brad Mitzelfelt, San Bernardino County First District Supervisor; MEEC Teacher of the Year Yvonne Campos, SOAR, Lancaster; Teacher of Excellence Roger Aburto, Granite Hills High School, Apple Valley; and Teacher of Excellence LaKeysha Mattis, Thomson Elementary, Barstow.*

MEEC's Teacher of the Year and two Teachers of Excellence are selected annually based on their continuous and enduring contributions to environmental education, demonstrated capacity for creating and implementing successful environmental activities, promoting individual and societal environmental responsibility, and encouraging youth to make informed decisions about environmental issues. Winners were nominated by their principals and selected by MEEC's Executive Board.

During the event, six High Desert students were also recognized as outstanding individuals who "lead by example" in their commitment to

promoting environmental awareness and positive change within their schools and communities. Students were nominated by their teachers or principals for promoting environmental leadership and stewardship. Each Student of the Year recipient received a plaque, \$60 in cash, as well as a \$60 Staples gift card.



*2012 Students of the Year: Back Row L-R: Brad Mitzelfelt, San Bernardino County First District Supervisor; Tyler Harl, Palmdale High School, Palmdale; Tyas Shorter, Littlerock High School, Littlerock; Regan Szydlowski, Excelsior Charter School, Victorville; Anton DuBoise, Paracelete High School, Lancaster. Front Row L-R: James Staten, George Magnet School, Adelanto; Jennifer Rubio, Amargosa Creek Middle School, Lancaster.*

Also recognized that evening were the five 2012 recipients of MEEC's High School Environmental/Science Scholarship Program. Each graduating high school recipient received a \$1,000 scholarship.



*Scholarly Winners: Brad Mitzelfelt, congratulates MEEC's 2012 Scholarship Recipients: L-R: Francisco Magana, Pete Knight High School, Palmdale; Jacob Madsen, Granite Hills High School, Apple Valley; Abraham Vara, Pete Knight High School, Palmdale; Paige Vogenthailer, Paracelete High School, Lancaster.*



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# YELC 2012 Showcases STEM Service-Learning

**A**s MEEC geared up for its 8th annual Youth Environmental Leadership Conference (YELC), the new Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and Service-Learning focus took center stage. Teams of High Desert students and their advisors registered in record numbers for the day-long events at the Academy for Academic Excellence in Apple Valley on Saturday, February 4, 2012 and at Discovery School in Lancaster on Saturday, January 21, 2012. Always a leader in environmental education, MEEC is once again forging the way by incorporating STEM Service-Learning education into its popular annual student conference. During this year's YELC events, student teams and their advisors were introduced to knowledgeable and dedicated professionals from a variety of STEM career backgrounds who not only motivated students to complete an Environmental Service-Learning project within their community, but also served as mentors to the students.

YELC's Keynote Speaker was Joel Greene, the founder and host of the nationally syndicated PBS television program "Curiosity Quest" and "Curiosity Quest Goes Green". Joel is passionate for kids and his invaluable knowledge helps students and teachers discover the steps that it takes to become ambassadors of the environment, and feel empowered to make a difference. A total of thirty teams of three to eight students from grades 3 through 12 and more than 40 advisors attended both conferences.

On April 14th and 28th, teams returned to the Lancaster and Apple Valley YELC Conference schools to display their Service-Learning projects during the YELC "Showcase". Teams presented table top displays, videos, and PowerPoint presentations. Individually, students each received an Award of Recognition and each team received a trophy for their efforts.

On Saturday, September 8, 2012, MEEC hosted its 9th annual YELC STEM SL conference at Granite Hills High School in Apple Valley, where 27 teams of more than 225 students and their advisors attended the one-day event. Spring and fall YELC events were held during 2012 in an effort to coordinate the recent Fall 2012 YELC event to coincide with the Spring 2013 Showcase, allowing student teams sufficient time to work on their STEM SL projects. From here on, each Fall YELC event will be followed up with a Spring Showcase.



*Students work with Mickey Bowen, of Edwards Air Force Base, who served as YELC's Robotics workshop presenter.*

Joel Greene, host of PBS's "Curiosity Quest Goes Green", again energized the students with a rousing Key Note address on the positive impacts of recycling on our planet. Teams rotated through workshops that included "Robotics", presented by Mickey Bowen, Edwards Air Force Base; "Rockets!", presented by Mary Walls, Director of the RADIUS Center; "Paper Tower Design Challenge", presented by Tony Penna of Apple Valley Ranchos Water, and Dave Rib, of Mitsubishi Cement; ;and "Cookie Mining", hosted by Darlene Bray, CEMEX and Women in Mining.



*Students get ready to launch their rockets in Apple Valley during YELC Fall 2012.*

## "Bringing Environmental Education into the Classroom"



**K**ey Issues is a national training institute located in Silverthorne, Colorado which is held each summer. Using Colorado's spectacular ecosystems as its setting, Key Issues combines classroom time with outdoor exploration of the natural environment.



*2012 Key Issues Teachers from the Antelope and Victor Valleys work as a team on an outdoor activity in Colorado.*

For the tenth year, this once-in-a-lifetime educational opportunity was made available to five teachers via full scholarships provided by the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District, Boeing Company, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics-Palmdale, the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts and MEEC. AVAQMD, Lockheed, and LACSD sponsored three Antelope Valley teachers to partake in the Keystone Center's innovative program, which equips educators with the skills and confidence to explore local and global environmental issues with their students using a non-biased, standards-based framework. In addition, MEEC and Boeing sponsored two teachers from the San Bernardino County High Desert/Riverside County Blythe region to attend Key Issues this summer. The teachers selected by MEEC to attend this year's Key Issues session in July were: Michelle Lambeth, Amargosa Creek Middle School, Lancaster; Veronica Lemus, Linda Verde Elementary School, Lancaster; Jessica Pita, Linda Verde Elementary School, Lancaster; Roger Aburto, Granite Hills High School, Apple Valley, and Sarah Greif, Academy for Academic Excellence, Apple Valley.



## 2011/2012 MEEC Workshops Provide Teachers With Place-Based Learning Opportunities

**D**uring the past school year, MEEC offered educators a wide variety of high quality STEM-based environmental workshops located throughout the High Desert and beyond.

Funded by a generous grant from the Boeing Company, MEEC offered free "Clean Air Classroom", "Solar Energy 101", "Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Service-Learning", and "Running on Renewables" teacher workshops to 300 educators from High Desert schools.

The "Clean Air Classroom", "Solar Energy 101" and "Running on Renewables" workshops presented hands-on training sessions which provided educators with the tools to enable their students to conduct scientific research on environmental problems, draw conclusions, and develop critical thinking skills. The Solar and Running on Renewables workshops also provided educators with the tools to teach their students how to reach logical conclusions and solutions about our future energy usage. Each attendee received workshop-related kits such as the Clean Air Kit, (valued at \$100), which contained a Fuel Cell Car, a "Parts-Per-Million" bottle, California standards-based curriculum lessons/activities from the "Adventures of Parti & Ozi", an engaging combination live action/animated lesson plan series designed to teach students how air pollution can dramatically impact their world developed by the MDAQMD; a Solar Lab Kit containing Solar Ovens, Solar Lab materials, and standards-based K-12 curriculum from the National Environmental Education Development (NEED) Program.



Participating educators assembled their fuel cell cars and after a brief charge, raced against each other during the Clean Air Classroom workshop at the MDAQMD in Victorville.

Running on Renewables Teacher kits (right).



On June 11th, Boeing also sponsored a three-day Marine Ecology workshop for 17 teachers which began at 6:30am at Seal Beach en route to Catalina Island. The ride over was eventful as the Long Beach Marine Institute's ferry was equipped with a trawler and multiple touch tanks that the teachers were able to interact with. Teachers also viewed multiple dolphin pods during the boat ride. After arriving at Long Beach Marine Institute's Catalina Island Camp, the teachers were given a briefing of what to expect on the Island. The first activity was a hike preceded by a briefing about native, endemic, and invasive species on the island, and about island biogeography. During the hike the teachers successfully identified many of the Island's endemic plants, and were also able to view leopard sharks from a cliff-side overlook. Other animals encountered on the hike included mule deer and a bald eagle. After the hike, and an educational briefing on near shore and kelp species, the teachers went on a snorkeling expedition. This was a first for many of them, and they identified numerous species including abalone, lobster, garibaldi, and countless smaller fish. The second day's first activity was tide pool education during a trip to the tide pools. After encountering species like crabs and sculpins (fish), the naturalists found several large eels. The teachers then went kayaking to explore the shore environment and circled rocky outcrops which serve as home to bird species such as gulls, pelicans, and cormorants. Their final activity of the day was a comparative dissection of a bony fish and a shark. On their last day, the teachers



Marine Ecology workshop teachers explore the Catalina harbor via kayaks

headed back across the ocean to Long Beach tired and satisfied. Participating teachers stated that this one-of-a-kind experience would bring value to their classrooms.

On October 22nd and 23, 2011, Boeing sponsored a "Desert

Studies Photography" workshop which again proved to be a hit with attending teachers. Seventeen educators were awarded scholarships covering their meals, lodging, and travel stipends to spend a day and a half hiking through the Joshua Tree National Park in Covington Flats and the Big Morongo Preserve with wildlife biologist and photographer David Lamfrom, who is also Senior Desert Program Manager for the National Parks Conservation Association. Teachers were instructed on the benefits of using digital photography, pen and ink drawing, and other media to help students comprehend concepts and retain information by making it more personal and relevant. The program also discussed the advantages of using group presentation and facilitation to further engage students and provide professional development in public speaking.

On March 22nd, MEEC sponsor CalPortland Company and Women in Mining partnered to host a "Cement is Not Concrete" teacher workshop at the CalPortland Mojave plant. More than 25 educators toured the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star "Partner of the Year" and Energy Star "Sustained Excellence" mining site. During the tour, participants learned how cement is made from raw materials, blasted from the mountain-side into important building materials and also viewed the eight large renewable energy wind turbines located on site which provide more than 25% of the plants clean energy. Each participant received a free curriculum guide containing tables listing specific minerals and rocks, their characteristics, plus lesson plans, glossaries, and a historical timeline of cement notes.



Teachers view mining operations at CalPortland Company

## Teachers Take a Hike During EnviRetreat 2011

**M**EEC's 2011 EnviRetreat was held on November 2nd and 3rd with five specially-selected teachers taking part in the two-day event, which introduced them to a host of unique environmental issues and educational sites.

The annual EnviRetreat Conference is designed to promote quality EE learning in a "place-based" environment, with this year's event taking place at a number of sites in the San Bernardino Mountains, Lucerne Valley, and along the headwaters of the Mojave River. The following five teachers participated in the event: Yvonne Campos, SOAR High School, Lancaster; Manuel Colon, University Preparatory School, Victorville; Brian Bershee, Hook Jr High School, Victorville; Ana House, Sierra Elementary, Lancaster; and Louise Ranczka, Lancaster High School, Lancaster.

The educators started their first day at Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District offices in Victorville, where they departed for Lucerne Valley and Mitsubishi Cement Company where they received a personally guided tour by David Rib, Environmental Manager and MEEC Executive Board Member. The teachers toured the plant, kilns and native plant nursery, with one of the day's highlights being a blast on the mountainside. From there the teachers traveled up the Cushenbury Grade Summit (elevation 6,892 feet) along Highway 18 and the Helendale earthquake fault where they viewed large clusters of some of the largest specimens of Joshua trees found anywhere, and long abandoned mines riddling the hillsides. Traveling past Baldwin Dry Lake, the teachers continued their trip until they arrived in the heart of Big Bear Lake and their destination, the Northwoods Resort. During lunch in a private meeting room, the teachers received training from Project Learning Tree's "Forestry and Ecology" module, which they each were given a copy of for their classrooms. They also viewed a short documentary, "One Way Out", produced in fall 2003 as a cautionary release by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, National Forestry Services, San Bernardino County Fire Department, and other agencies. The documentary was created in preparation for a possible devastating wildfire in the mountains that would be accelerated by the millions of dead and dying pine trees surrounding the mountain top communities. After their training session and a short break, the teachers attended a reception at Northwoods Resort sponsored by the California Desert Air Working Group, which was simultaneously hosting its annual conference at the Resort. Proceeds from the annual CDAWG Conference, which is presented by the MDAQMD, directly benefit MEEC. The hosted reception provided the teachers with an

opportunity to mingle with MEEC sponsors, supporters and other environmental professionals. After the reception, teachers enjoyed dinner at the Peppercorn Grill Steakhouse, and then had the remaining evening for personal time in their private rooms.

The second day of EnviRetreat began with breakfast at the Resort, where the teachers shared their thoughts on the previous day's educational adventures. Upon leaving the Resort, the teachers traveled along the Rim of the World Highway to Lake Arrowhead Village and the San Bernardino County Fire Department 91 where Glenn



*Teachers and Foresters discussing environmental issues in the Cedar Glenn area.*

Barley, California Department of Forestry Forester provided them with a brief overview of the bark beetle devastation to the pine trees in the 2003 wildfire, current reforestation efforts, and the dead tree program. The group caravanned to view one of the most devastated communities hit by the wildfire, Cedar Glen Hook Creek area, where more than 350 homes were lost, and is only now being rebuilt due to new zoning laws that reduce the previously over-crowded homes that provided so much fuel for the wildfire.

A short drive later, the group visited the Strawberry Peak Fire Lookout Tower off Highway 18 located near

the communities of Twin Peaks and Rim Forest. Here, they climbed the thirty-five foot tower originally built in 1934 for an unparalleled 360 degree view of the San Bernardino Mountains. A picnic lunch was provided on the tables below the tower and the views of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties below presented a great backdrop for conversation. After lunch, the group drove to Crest Drive in Lake Arrowhead, an area overlooking Silverwood Lake and Hesperia that was hard hit in the wildfires due to its rugged and inaccessible terrain. National Resources Conservation Services Lead Forester Adam Learner and Evan Smith provided the teachers with the history of the urban forest, what constitutes a healthy forest, and the current efforts being made to reduce the amount of dead pine trees due to the long-term drought conditions and bark beetle infestation.

The last stop for the teachers was at the Mojave River Dam re-charge site in Hesperia located below Silverwoods Lake. Tamara Alaniz, Mojave Water Agency Water Conservationist and MEEC Executive Board member, met the teachers and provided information on the history of the Mojave River, the storage of water in Silverwood Lake, and connections to the State Water Project and the California Aqueduct. Tired but well-informed, the group departed for the short drive back to Victorville, armed with materials and knowledge to share with their students.



## CORDINATOR'S CORNER

As promised, MEEC is taking every opportunity to provide our High Desert educators with the resources and tools to integrate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math education (STEM) and Service-Learning into their classrooms. MEEC's efforts in the coming years will continue to focus heavily on incorporating STEM into our program and activities.

Many of you are already familiar with STEM and STEM Service-Learning, but for those of you who are not:

**STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education is an interdisciplinary approach to learning where rigorous academic concepts are coupled with real-world lessons as students apply science, technology, engineering and mathematics in contexts that make connections between school, community, work and the global enterprise, enabling the development of STEM literacy and with the ability to compete in the new economy. With its multi-disciplinary/multi-subject approach, environmental education represents the ideal vehicle for implementing STEM principles.

**Service-Learning** is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. Service-Learning can be applied in a wide variety of settings, and can involve a group of students, a classroom or an entire school. Students build character and become active

participants as they work with others in their school and community to create service projects in areas such as education, public safety, and the environment. Students design and implement projects to meet a wide variety of school and community needs in areas such as energy, health, water quality, the environment, campus improvement and peer mentoring.



Christie Robinson

To continue meeting the needs of our teachers, students and community, YELC 2013 will once again focus on an annual STEM Service-Learning, Project-based conference, where small groups of students from a school will attend with a teacher/advisor, be trained in how to select a Service-Learning project, how to implement it and make it sustainable, and be paired with business/community mentors (MEEC sponsors or other community entities). A new addition to YELC will be the Environmental STEM Career Forum, where student teams will visit booths provided by MEEC sponsors spotlighting STEM-related environmental careers and hands-on interactive activities. In spring, students will return for the Showcase where they will present their projects. YELC 2013 is scheduled for October 5, 2013.

Thanks to its ongoing partnerships with High Desert businesses and agencies, MEEC is in the unique position to be able to offer local educators and their students unprecedented access to real-life STEM professionals and "green" career exploration opportunities. We applaud our generous sponsors for making this possible and we encourage every MEEC teacher to become part of the "STEM Revolution" with MEEC!

Christie

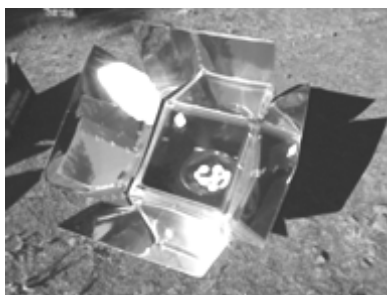


## MEEC Heats Up the High Desert with "Solar Oven Cook-Off Challenge" This Summer!

MEEC is hosting its inaugural "Solar Oven Cook-Off Challenge" in June 2013. The event, sponsored by MEEC, Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, Abengoa Solar, BrightSource, and First Solar, is the first event of this kind for the High Desert.

The "Solar Oven Cook-Off" will challenge students to use scientific know-how, creative thinking, teamwork and experimentation to design and build solar cookers, while developing a mouth-watering recipe. A design and cooking event, the Cook-Off provides an excellent opportunity to combine the teaching of many scientific and social principles in an atmosphere of fun and excitement. Eligible students must be in grades 4-12, and work in teams of 2-5 students, plus one advisor.

During the "Solar Oven Cook-Off Challenge", teams will demonstrate the performance of their solar cookers by creating an original dish of food for the competition. Awards will be given in each division for the Best Oven Design and Top Solar Chefs. Each school may send no more than one team.



Sample solar oven

Team Registration Forms will be available February 1, 2013 at [www.meeconline.com](http://www.meeconline.com) and via an email announcement.

## Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District Donates Display to Two High Desert Schools

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, lead agency for MEEC, recently offered to donate a professional 10' by 20' display unit to a school that they were planning to surplus. Following an e-mail announcement through MEEC, more than 40 schools responded to the first-come, first-served offer, resulting in two schools scoring display units. The display can be used as two single ten foot units or a single twenty foot display. The lucky recipients were Granite Hills High School, Apple Valley, and Palmdale High School's FAST Academy, Palmdale.

The large display unit was originally purchased for more than \$8,000 and contains lighting, cupboards, and shelves, and was used by the MDAQMD's Community Relations and Education office during outreach events such as the San Bernardino County Fair and High Desert Opportunity. Both schools were elated about the possibilities the display boards would provide for student and school activities and programs.



Recipients Leonard Moreno, Palmdale HS FAST Academy, Palmdale (left), and Michael McKean, Principal, Granite Hills HS, Apple Valley, stand in front of one half of the large display unit each of their schools received.



TEACHER

## FEATURE: Michelle Diggs

More than 14 years ago, Michelle Diggs never dreamed that she would become a teacher in the High Desert. "It was quite a journey because I started out wanting to be a dietitian", Michelle says, "and in between I've worked in retail and sold real estate. I even found time to attend law school as I was finding my passion".



Born and raised in New York City, Michelle moved to California as an adult to manage a family owned retail business. Then, California had a severe shortage of teachers and that's when Michelle decided to complete her college education with a switch to education. Michelle figured it was inevitable: after all, her mom, two sisters, and daughter are all teachers!

Adds Michelle, "I love the fact that I've explored many of life's options. That makes me a well-rounded person. Quite often, I'm able to pull from all of these experiences and incorporate real life lessons into my teaching."

Michelle's teaching career has included middle school where she taught Math and Science, and elementary school where she currently teaches multiple subjects in 5th grade at Morgan/Kincaid Preparatory School of Integrated Studies in Victorville.

What Michelle loves most about teaching is math, creative writing and building character. Math and Writing of course are required, but Michelle believes that building character should also be right at the top too, as it rounds out the whole student. "Integrity, commitment, excellence and trustworthiness must be taught!" she stated.

Michelle also encourages her classes to participate in activities that provide the opportunity to say "thank you". For example, whenever her students receive grants and/or awards, Michelle makes sure they write acknowledgements. "Kids need to understand that no one has to do anything, but when someone or some company steps up, we really need to let them know how much we appreciate their contributions", she commented.

Last year, Michelle's students participated in all of the writing contests MEEC sponsored. Several of her students won in various categories throughout the year. Michelle also enriched her class with guest speakers provided by MEEC's connections. Her students enjoyed the lectures from real world field experts along with wonderful hands-on science experiments provided by the guest speakers teaching with real world application.

Additionally, Michelle entered her class in a Scholastic writing contest where students had to write essays about character. With students applying their efforts and skills, Michelle had a student winner which resulted in complimentary tickets for all of her students and their friends and families to attend a Dodger's game!

Last fall and spring, a group of Michelle's students participated in the YELC conference. Their Service-Learning project was aimed at bringing awareness to protecting the desert's unique environment. "It was an excellent experience for the students and definitely a worthy assignment that should have a life-changing impact!" said Michelle.

In 2011, Michelle was selected to attend the Key Issues Training in Colorado, which opened the door to many enriching experiences. Says Michelle, "Thanks to MEEC who provided me the initial opportunity; now I get to recreate some of the field experiences I've had for my students!"

Michelle hopes students will remember these valuable lessons as they go through life. "Schools should teach more than academics and test taking strategies. Schools should help develop well-rounded students. Students that have good character will always extract a smile from someone. I love to bring out the goodness in students. I love to see them smile!" says Michelle.

# Fantabulous Feedback

## Letters from MEEC's "Fans"



"On the way home tonight after the Hinkley Elementary School Science Fair, I thought about MEEC and your contributions to our fair over the long haul....your commitment to our youth is such strong evidence for the dedication in your agency. It's touching to see this kind of contribution make it through such tough economic times and over such a long period of time. It's nice to be one of MEEC's long time friends...our school is indeed lucky to know you."

Adrian Gallardo, grade 6, was the recipient of the MEEC "Outstanding Environmental Science Project Award" at the school's award ceremony. "He was so surprised this evening....I think he was almost in tears. He just kind of shook and stood there...so I really think Sarah (MEEC judge) picked a deserving young man".



Holly Bowser  
Hinkley Elementary School, Hinkley

"My students cannot wait to begin hydroponics gardening and do the renewable energy unit for science! Excited for the workshop this weekend, and would love to do a YELC workshop someday! So thankful to have such an amazing resource!"

Aneek Dagama

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AVAILABLE ONLY TO MEEC MEMBERS!



## Supervisor Mitzelfelt Contributes \$10,000 to MEEC

**S**an Bernardino County First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, announced during the opening ceremonies of the 2012 MEEC Teacher and Student of the Year Awards Banquet that his office will be contributing \$10,000 to MEEC as a 2012-2013 program sponsor. The First District's grant will support MEEC's environmental educator workshops, field trip grants, essay contests, and High School Environmental Science/Engineering Scholarships. The funds will also be used to assist in providing training and resources to High Desert educators in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and Service-Learning. Students participating in STEM programs gain an advantage in competing for high tech and high wage jobs in the future. Many thanks to Supervisor Mitzelfelt for his commitment to STEM, EE, and to the High Desert's teachers and students!



Supervisor Mitzelfelt (left) and Teacher of the Year Yvonne Campos during the 2012 Teacher of the Year Banquet.

## 3M and Good360 Selects MEEC for Product Donation Program

**M**EEC was selected by 3M Oak Hills and Good360 to participate in their Product Donation Program, which allowed MEEC to receive a donation of health and office supplies, tape, and health care products, and a 3M Shoot 'n Share handheld camcorder/projector (total donation valued at \$5,822). This was a limited and invitation only, one-time order. Under the program, MEEC was able to select 3M products from a pre-selected list of items for use in its everyday administration of programs, plus for use in larger events such as YELC. "This was just an amazing opportunity provided by 3M to keep MEEC supplied with some of our basic and specialty items for several years, saving us money", commented Christie Robinson, MEEC Program and STEM SL Specialist. MEEC received more than 550 pounds of boxes containing office and basic health care supplies such as Band-Aids, cold/heat packs, and Ace Bandages in September. More than 75 boxes were delivered along with much appreciated office supplies, courtesy of 3M and the Good360 Donation Program.



3M Office Supply Donation

## Essay Winners Rock with Awareness about High Desert Mining

**"M**ining Rocks!" was the topic of an essay contest presented by MEEC sponsor Mitsubishi Cement this spring. The contest invited students to sharpen their knowledge of mining in the High Desert and to share the many benefits that mining provides in everyone's life. As they say, "if it can't be grown, it must be mined!" While researching their essays, students learned the process of excavating raw materials from the quarries, and the process of producing a quantity finished product while minimizing impacts to the environment and sensitive habitats. More than 150 students from the High Desert submitted essays. First place winners received \$50; second place winners received \$25; and third place winners received \$15. All Kindergarten winners received \$10.

An award ceremony for the winners and their families took place on April 19, 2012 at the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District in Victorville.



Back Row L-R: Sierra Knoch, Hailey Manter, Christian Dillion, Daniel Lemus Jr.  
Front Row L-R: Jakob Orr, Ashton Watts, Erin Patrick.

## Winners Pen Winning Essays about "What Earth Day Means to Me"

**J**ust in time for Earth Day, MEEC sponsor Lockheed Martin/ Palmdale, challenged students to submit essays sharing five simple environmental actions they could implement to make a difference where they lived. More than 150 students from schools throughout the entire Mojave Desert wrote essays on their ideas for conserving energy, recycling, and planting trees to help the environment. First place winners received \$50; second place winners received \$25; and third place winners received \$15. Each Kindergarten winner received \$10.

Front Row L-R: Carley Lawhead, George Visual & Performing Arts Magnet School, Adelanto; Haiden Thibodeaux, Academy of Academic Excellence, Apple Valley; Kaylia Ramirez, Morgan-Kincaid Prep, Victorville; Carson Vogel, Sundown Elementary, Lancaster; Back Row L-R: Kaleia Ashley, Miller Elementary, Lancaster; Destinee Ballestros, SOARHS, Palmdale; Nia Darbeau, SOARHS, Palmdale; Daniel Lemus Jr, SOARHS, Palmdale





Also visit [www.creec.org](http://www.creec.org)

**Address Correction Requested**

## THANK YOU TO OUR

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- High Desert Power Project
- Lockheed Martin Aeronautics
- Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District

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### PLATINUM

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- Dept of the Army-Fort Irwin
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- Southern California Edison
- City of Twentynine Palms
- TXI Riverside Cement
- Women in Mining

### GOLD

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- TetraTech
- Victor Valley Transit Authority
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- Town of Apple Valley

### BRONZE

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