



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 29, 2009

Contact: Nick Stavrianoudakis, Director of Public Affairs: (209)575-6959, stavrianoudakisn@yosemite.edu

PHOTO ATTACHED

MJC's Wes Page Wins State Employee of Year Honor

MODESTO, CA – On May 4, 2009, the Board of Governors for California Community Colleges will recognize Wesley (Wes) J. Page as one of five *2009 Classified Employee of the Year Award* winners in the state. Wes Page is a Video/Media Production Specialist at Modesto Junior College (MJC) and has been employed by the Yosemite Community College District (YCCD) for 37 years. The Award represents the best of California's community college classified employees and is given out annually to honor those who demonstrate the highest level of commitment to professionalism and community colleges.

The *Classified Employee of the Year Award* is to be given out annually to honor community college classified employees who demonstrate the highest level of commitment to professionalism and community colleges. Recipients are nominated by members of their college/district community and endorsed by their local Board of Trustees. Award recipients are selected by representatives of the Board of Governors for California Community Colleges, the Chancellor's Office, and the Foundation for California Community College and must have a record of outstanding performance of professional activities, as well as a record of active participation on campus and beyond.

Wes Page is one of MJC's number one "ambassadors" both on campus as a videographer and photographer, and in the community through his volunteerism and the many community services he has provided. His services are highly sought after on campus. His videos are used for instructional purposes, enhancing communication at campus wide events, and for motivating and recognizing accomplishments by the students and staff. Wes has served on planning committees for numerous special events including annual Institute Days, Women of Distinction Luncheons, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorations. He has worked on major events featuring guest speaker including Maya Angelou, Yolanda King, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Robert Kennedy, Jr. Wes is currently working with the Chancellor Roe Darnell on a series of short video spots that will demonstrate the importance of maintaining state funding for community colleges during hard economic times.

Off campus, Wes volunteers as an usher at the Gallo Center for the Performing Arts, participates with the local Star Wars Storm Troopers group that has donated appearances to raise money for the MJC Foundation, and the Salvation Army Red Kettle drive. On a personal level, Wes is devoted to his niece with multiple sclerosis and maintains daily contact with a former MJC employee who suddenly became blind and assists with his Internet contacts and many other personal needs. When Wes learned that elderly and handicapped patrons of the McHenry Mansion were unable to tour the 2nd floor of this historic Victorian mansion, he created a video tour of the entire building that was accompanied by music and interesting facts for these patrons to enjoy.

In the words of his nominator, "Wes is respected and beloved by everyone who have the pleasure of working with him both on and off campus. Speak with him briefly and it quickly becomes obvious that Wes firmly believes in the purpose and the important part community colleges play in education and in bettering our communities."

-YCCD-