



County of Yolo

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Public Health Heroes Named in Yolo County

(Woodland, CA)—In celebration of National Public Health Week, three Public Health Hero Awards were announced on April 7, 2009. Each year, the Yolo County Health Department presents these awards during Public Health Week to community members and staff who have exemplified the values of public health.

This year's employee award was presented to Jessica Estrada, a health outreach specialist. The community award was presented to the Winters Healthcare Foundation, and received by Christopher Kelsch, the Executive Director. And a special lifetime achievement Public Health Hero award was presented to Dr. Bette Hinton, retired health officer/director.

Jessica Estrada was recognized for her skills in developing the tobacco youth coalition (YUFA STAR) from 15 to 45 members with groups in Esparto, Woodland, and West Sacramento. Her work with the youth has helped them learn skills that they use to make a difference in their community by working with elected officials, community members, and organizations to implement tobacco free policies. She encourages and mentors the youth to grow in their education and their skills to make a difference for a healthier community.

The Winters Healthcare Foundation provides primary medical care services to residents of the Winters area. They understand that the needs of their patients are greater than the illnesses they contract or injuries they incur, and they work to coordinate their needs with the help of the entire community. Their practice is built on providing all the benefits of quality primary care: modern medical science, preventive health education, and patient advocacy. Their sensitivity to the patients they serve and their understanding of the importance of quality healthcare services distinguishes them as a public health oriented healthcare service provider.

The Lifetime Achievement Public Health Hero award was presented to Dr. Bette Hinton, retired Health Officer/Director for Yolo County. She received her training in pediatrics, preventive medicine and public health, and used this training as a foundation to improve the health and well being of all residents in the communities she served.

She began her career as the health officer for rural Monongalia County West Virginia. She brought that experience with her to Sacramento County where she served as health officer until 1999. In 1999 she became the health officer of Yolo County, and expanded the role of public

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health in emergency response activities, and many department programs have been recognized by the state and other professional groups as “best practice” and examples to follow. She strategically participated in a variety of professional and leadership organizations to promote public policy and prevention efforts to strengthen public health activities locally and statewide.

Throughout her career, services provided to the community have been based on the best science available and mixed with caring and compassion for the well being of the individual and the community.

“Policy, prevention, and protection are the three P’s of Public Health,” states Dr. Joseph Iser, Yolo County Health Officer/Director. “These awards are given to individuals and organizations that protect the health and safety of the community through services based on these principles.”

National Public Health Week celebrates the successes of the public health system in protecting and enhancing the health of the community. This year’s theme is “*Building the Foundation for a Healthy America*” which promotes building a stronger national and local public health infrastructure to support future changes in health throughout America.

To hear more about the future of public health, listen to a podcast interview with Dr. Joseph Iser, located at www.yolohealth.org under ‘What’s New’. To receive ongoing updates from the Yolo County Health Department, follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/yolohealth.

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