

School custodians hailed for RISE work

Enterprise staff

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The spotlight of appreciation shone on some unsung heroes last week when the Davis Farm-to-School Connection honored the school district's custodian, maintenance and operations staff.

Thursday's luncheon at Holmes Junior High School was prepared and served by the organization's steering committee as a thank you for custodians' contributions to the DavisRISE (Recycling is Simply Elementary) Program during the 2008-09 school year.

DavisRISE is designed to recycle, divert and reduce the solid waste stream at all of Davis' schools. Thanks to the combined efforts of program leaders, staff, students and parents, the program has reduced more than 50 percent of solid waste that otherwise would go to the county landfill, RISE spokeswoman Talia Hack-Davie said.

Superintendent James Hammond thanked the staff and acknowledged their part in the program's success and the money saved as a result.

Five custodians earned a special gift — a \$75 stipend from Davis Farm to School Connection for their innovative ideas. They are Stan Hagen of Montgomery Elementary, Eva Gutierrez of Korematsu Elementary, Jean Echeverria of Willett Elementary, Bea Carillo of Pioneer Elementary and Rigo Mayorga of César Chávez Elementary.

Farm to School Connection President Dorothy Peterson presented the awards.

"Each school within the Davis Joint Unified School District is unique in their approach to reducing waste," Peterson said. "However, the secret to continued success and recognition throughout the district and state is supportive custodial staff.

"These enthusiastic staff members prove willing to adopt new practices on campus and assist students during lunchtime and throughout the school day in diverting, recycling and composting waste."

Each elementary and secondary school in Davis has an active recycling program, diverting from the waste stream items such as bottles, cans and paper as well as juice containers, ink cartridges and lunch leftovers.

Community members are invited to visit the schools during the coming academic year to see the recycling efforts in action. For more information about the DavisRISE Program or the Davis Farm to School Connection, visit <http://www.davisrise.org> or <http://davisfarmtoschool.org>.

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