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## **Albuquerque Teacher Wins National Disney Education Award**

**School for Integrated Academics and Technology (SIATech) Teacher Michael E. Mack Chosen From More Than 75,000 Nominees for Inspiring, Creative Classroom Strategies**

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

BURBANK, Calif.— Michael E. Mack, a high school mathematics teacher at School for Integrated Academics and Technology (SIATech) in Albuquerque, has been chosen from more than 75,000 nominees nationwide to receive the 2006 Disney Teacher Award in celebration of his creativity, innovative teaching methods, and ability to inspire his students.

As one of only 44 Disney Teacher Honorees, Mack 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 School for Integrated Academics and Technology (SIATech).

“Disney is dedicated to brightening the lives of children and we salute dedicated teachers like Mr. Mack 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. Mack is one of three Honorees being recognized for high school math education.

Creativity is key in Mack’s classroom. “Each student has the opportunity to create a final math project. One of my favorite projects was when a student chose to make a replica of a Native American church. I helped guide him in how to make a blueprint and he helped me with the welding symbols that were necessary to complete the blueprint for his church. We used the plotter I have in my classroom to print the drawing, so that he could then take the blueprint to his welding class and build his model,” explained Mack.

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“I say with pride that I have the best kids in the world arrive at my classroom each day. My school allows me to build personal relationships, offer individual hope, give life guidance and deeply explore mathematics,” said Mack.

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 Mack and his 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, Mack and his principal will work with experts from the Center for Collaborative Education in Boston to design a schoolwide plan for making teaching more effective. Mack will take a leadership role, educating his fellow teachers in the creative techniques that have made him so successful at connecting with students.

“My school is small, and our principal is a huge supporter of professional development. She asks that whenever any teacher goes to a conference, or to training that we bring back all the knowledge possible, and share it with the rest of the staff,” said Mack.

“Mr. Mack searches for new and innovative ways to show students how math works in life,” wrote Kelly Callahan, principal of SIA Tech, in a letter to Disney. “As an experienced school administrator, I can attest to the fact that I have never seen the kind of growth his students make in any other school setting.”

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.

“I applied to this program because I felt that if someone had taken the time to honor me by nominating me for this award, I had a responsibility to them to send in my application,” said Mack. “I feel that this award is a testament to my students and their hard work.”

### **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).