



Contact

Montebello Teachers Association/California Teachers Association/National Education Association • 918 W Whittier Blvd Montebello 90640 • (323) 722-5005 • montbelloteachers.org

Blanche Chester Award For Teacher Advocacy

- Paul McKernan1992
- Patricia Knapp1993
- Robin GrayBallard1994
- Karen van der Baan1995
- Linda Moran1996
- Maria Cortes1997
- David Lebow1998
- Frank van der Baan1999
- Mary Dupuis2000
- Juan Gastelum2001
- JoAnn Barro2001
- Lois Wankovsky2002
- Pat Tonelli2003
- Betty Kirschner2004

State Monitors Erasures on STAR Test

The California Department of Education (CDE) along with local school districts, are responsible for implementing a high quality and meaningful assessment and accountability system. The CDE meets this responsibility, in part, by requiring the State's Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program contractor to complete an electronic analysis of student answer documents for the California Standards Tests (CSTs) and the California Achievement Tests (CAT/6 Survey) to determine if there are any significant irregularities in the student response patterns.

Specifically, the contractor is able to measure the extent to which a response was erased and changed to a different answer. By tracking instances where the number and pattern of student erasures far exceeds what usually occurs during testing, the State can identify specific classrooms in which some type of irregular test administration may have occurred.

Revenue and Expense Open Hearing February 28

The Revenue and Expense Open Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15 at 3:30 p.m. at La Merced Intermediate. All are welcome.

CalSTRS Retirement Check-Up Is Wednesday

The District is hosting a CalSTRS Retirement Check-Up **Wednesday, February 8** at 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room at District Office. The workshop is free and spouses are welcome to participate.

Nominations Are Open for the

Blanche Chester Teacher Advocate Award

Simply complete the form below and return it to the MTA office by **Friday, March 3**. This honor is awarded to individuals who demonstrate strong Bargaining Unit member advocacy at their site and throughout the Association. All nominees will be asked to complete an application and statement. In addition, the nominator will be asked to gather individual testimonials from colleagues on behalf of the nominee.

The Executive Committee will select three Blanche Chester finalists, who will be announced at the April 25 Council meeting. There will be one finalist each from the three levels: pre K-grade 4, grade 5-grade 8, and grade 9-adult. A committee of former Blanche Chester winners will determine the winner among the finalists. The announcement will be made at the May 16 Council meeting. *So take a moment and complete the form below and recognize an outstanding advocate.*



Bargaining Chairperson Terry SalasOrtiz (CCE) and President Margie Granado (MTA) discuss ideas for the upcoming bargaining reopeners. Terry is expected to recommend a team to Council at the February 28 meeting. A survey will be presented to members in the following months. Negotiations will begin this spring.

NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING TEACHER ADVOCATE FOR THE BLANCHE CHESTER AWARD

RETURN TO THE MTA OFFICE NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MARCH 3

**I nominate _____ Site _____ for the Blanche Chester Award.
(Members of the 2005-2006 Executive Committee and previous winners are not eligible.)**

Name

Site

Extension