

PRESS RELEASE

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MBUSD Teacher Christopher Miko One of Seven to Win National American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Educator Achievement Award

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The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) recently announced the winners of their 2011 AIAA Foundation Educator Achievement Award. Christopher Miko, fifth grade teacher at Meadows Elementary School in the Manhattan Beach Unified School District (MBUSD), was one of seven teachers representing six states selected to receive this award.

The AIAA Foundation presents the Educator Achievement Awards every two years to educators in the K-12 setting who have demonstrated exemplary efforts in exciting students about the study of mathematics, science, and related technical studies, and in preparing them to use and contribute to tomorrow's technologies. To those who know Mr. Miko or who are fortunate enough to have been his student, this honor comes as no surprise. He has an intense passion for science, particularly astronomy and rocketry. He attended the NASA Space Camp in Alabama in the summer of 2009, and later that same year he was awarded a fellowship for the Endeavor Science Teaching Certificate Project from NASA—one of only 40 teachers across the country so honored.

MBUSD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Matthews stated, "Christopher Miko ignites a passion for learning science in his students that extends well beyond the classroom. He is that special educator who ignites a spark of interest, constantly challenging students to question, investigate, and evaluate the world around them."

Board of Trustees' President Bill Fournell added, "Providing an outstanding education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) is

critical to the future success of our students. Teachers like Mr. Miko inspire the next generation of explorers, scientists, engineers, programmers and astronauts.”

The Principal of Meadows Elementary School, Connie Harrington, remarked, “This award was given to teachers who excite kids about STEM. Chris Miko has changed the tenor of our entire school vis á vis science since the day he arrived at Meadows. Because of him, our kids love science!”

Each winner will receive a trip to Washington, D.C., along with a guest, and will be honored at the AIAA Aerospace Spotlight Awards Gala on May 11, 2011.

AIAA is the world's largest technical society dedicated to the global aerospace profession. With more than 35,000 individual members worldwide, and 90 corporate members, AIAA brings together industry, academia, and government to advance engineering and science in aviation, space, and defense. For more information, visit www.aiaa.org.

About the Manhattan Beach Unified School District

Manhattan Beach Unified School District ranks as the third highest performing unified school district in the State of California with a 2010 Growth Academic Performance Index (API) of 926. MBUSD serves nearly 6,900 students from preschool to twelfth grade at eight school campuses—one preschool, five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Mira Costa High School’s API places it in the top 1.3% of public high schools in California, and it was named number fifteen in ESPN’s “Fab 50” High Schools in the Unified States in 2010 for its superior athletic programs. In addition to outstanding students and excellent teachers, MBUSD is extremely fortunate to have a high level of parental involvement in the schools and very strong partnerships with the Manhattan Beach Education and Athletic Foundations, the City of Manhattan Beach, Chevron, Northrop Grumman, Continental Development, the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce and other local organizations and businesses. More information about MBUSD is available at www.mbusd.org.