



**FARMERS**

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# News

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**For Immediate Release**

## **FARMERS INSURANCE AWARDS ITS FIRST “WIT” AWARDS TO THREE OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS DURING STATEWIDE EDUCATION CONFERENCE**

*(March 5, 2004, San Jose, CA)* – Farmers Insurance awarded three educators with its first-ever Wisdom, Inspiration and Tenacity (WIT) Award on March 4, 2004 during a special ceremony at the De Saisset Art Museum on the Santa Clara University campus as part of the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual statewide conference of the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE). Recipients of the WIT Award were Truckee Elementary School teacher Esther F. Bousquet, Santa Clara University associate professor Sara S. Garcia, Phd. and San Jose school district administrator Rosa G. Molina.

Farmers Insurance developed the WIT Award in partnership with CABE to recognize outstanding educators who have demonstrated a philosophy that reflects cultural sensitivity and high student expectations while espousing the award’s three characteristics – wisdom, inspiration and tenacity. All the candidates also had to demonstrate a commitment to serving the greater community in which they work. Winners received a limited edition print by renowned artist Irene Carranza.

“The WIT Award winners truly exemplify excellence in the classroom and unparalleled commitment to service outside of the classroom,” said Diane Tasaka, director of corporate communications for Farmers Insurance. “We couldn’t be more thrilled with the selection of these three outstanding educators.”

Each of the awardees embodies the ideals of wisdom, inspiration and tenacity in different ways:

**- more -**

## **WIT AWARDS/2-2-2**

- Truckee school teacher Bousquet has been a member of CABE for over ten years and her students have consistently achieved high levels of success due to her commitment and professionalism. She also sees community involvement as critical to student success, “Community service is an extension of my teaching...I will literally do anything that needs to be done that will keep students from missing class.”
- Dr. Garcia won a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research in Chihuahua, Mexico on teacher development and teaching approaches in 2001. She has mentored hundreds of educators during her teaching career and is the author and/or editor of several books and manuscripts set for publication later this year.
- Currently director of elementary education for the San Jose Unified School District, Molina rose to prominence as an exceptional educator as principal of River Glen Elementary School where her work was rewarded with an academic excellence national grant by the US Department of Education. She has trained hundreds of teachers, administrators and parents throughout the country about the success of bilingual education.

Joining Tasaka in presenting the WIT Awards were Marcia Vargas, director of two-way bilingual immersion education programs for CABE and Rebecca Schapp, director of the De Saisset Museum. Over two hundred educators and other supporters attended the award ceremony.

The Farmers Insurance Group of Companies® is the nation’s third-largest Personal Lines Property and Casualty insurance group. Headquartered in Los Angeles and doing business in 41 states, the insurers comprising Farmers Insurance Group of Companies® provide Homeowners, Auto, Business, Life insurance and financial services to more than 10 million households through 17,000 exclusive and independent agents and district managers. For more information about Farmers®, visit [www.farmers.com](http://www.farmers.com).

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