

CDSN PORTRAITS OF SUCCESS AWARDS PROGRAM

The CDS Network invites all members to nominate students, teachers, counselors, administrators, and other valued contributors for acknowledgement in its **PORTRAITS of SUCCESS** program for the 2008 school year. Nominees will be included in the final selection pool for outstanding recognition for Community Day School Education in the State of California. Nominee portraits will be posted periodically on the website and finalists will be voted on by members of the CDS Network Board of Directors. Examples:

Student: demonstrated success in completing CDS and transitioning to traditional school environment. (Student overcoming barriers, change of attitude).

Teacher: demonstrated success in enhancing student self-esteem, promoting the development of resiliency skills, increasing academic achievement and developing socially appropriate interaction among students. Contributes productively to the community.

Administrator: demonstrated leadership of a productive and successful academic environment. Contribution to the improvement of Community Day Schools. Significant contribution to the development of the Community Day School Network on a regional basis.

Other: demonstrated a strong, unwavering support for community day school students and the school. This could be a counselor, clerk, parent, or other community member who has shown exceptional support and initiative to make the program and students successful.



Following is a **PORTRAIT of SUCCESS** nomination for a student. You may use this as an example of what is needed for submission.

Achievement Snapshot - Student Nominee

Eileen, an eighth grade at-promise student, enrolled in Community Day School (CDS) in mid-October after refusing to attend the first month of school. Having failed nine classes the previous year and battling school-phobia, she was coaxed to try CDS by allowing her to complete classwork in the office and participating in lunch and nutrition with her schoolmates. After a week of perfect attendance, Eileen was partnered with a vivacious and friendly student who walked her to class, worked with her in physical education, and talked with her daily about “hanging in there” when times seemed difficult. Teachers, staff and students soon engaged Eileen in conversation and encouraged her to attend daily, something she was not accustomed to doing in her previous schools.

By the end of the year, Eileen had passed all twelve of her classes and her attendance became indicative of the 90% attendance rate of her 2006-07 classmates. She went on to complete four ninth grade summer school classes, thus boosting her credits prior to her high school years. Having been successful in classwork and socialization, Eileen chose to stay at CDS for her freshman year with a goal of transferring to CHS in 2009.

Eileen has become a leader on campus and a mentor for other students having difficulties in transitioning. She led the school in a moment of silence and began the Flag Salute on September 11. She has utilized the CDS “Bridge to Success” and is looking forward to her next destination.

As the teacher for Eileen, I strongly recommend her for consideration as an outstanding student and inclusion in the Portraits of Success portfolio.