

# Sierra Ambulance receives the Crystal Tower Award

**(Updated: Thursday, April 22, 2010, 12:00 AM)**

Sierra Ambulance received the Crystal Tower Award April 14 at the Seventh Annual Business and Education Shareholders' Luncheon attended by 175 community leaders.

B-K Lighting and Educational Employees Credit Union of Madera were also recipients of the award.

Madera County businesses are recognized each year for their partnerships with county schools.

Ed Guzman, general manager of Sierra Ambulance, accepted the award. Sierra Ambulance was nominated by Edward Van Hoose, principal of Yosemite High School.

Sierra Ambulance provides standby at all Yosemite High School home football games at no charge to the district and assists with athletic physicals. Guzman is on the advisory committee for the ROP program's EMT class and is any active partner.

Sierra Ambulance is always available when needed, whether it be for an emergency call to the campus or working with the students one on one. They award scholarships, host a booth at career day and provide staff training in CPR.

The company was named the 2009 Business of the Year by the Oakhurst Area Chamber of Commerce.

Accepting the award for B-K Lighting was owner Doug Hagen. B-K Lighting was nominated by Alan Hollman, vice principal of Madera High School.

Hagen is a member of the School of Engineering and Technology advisory committee and has provided valuable input for guiding the career pathways and alignment to industry standards. B-K Lighting has given the students the chance to apply what they have learned in the classroom to the job site by providing student internships.

Elizabeth Dooley, president/CEO of Educational Employees Credit Union, accepted for the credit union, which was nominated by Dr. Sally Frazier, Madera County Superintendent of Schools.

EECU is the sponsor of the Excellence in Education program recognizing a county teacher, administrator and employee of the year each fall.

EECU is also a sponsor of county-wide student academic and competitive events.

Dr. Thomas Crow, State Center Community College District chancellor, was given special recognition for his role in promoting business and education partnerships.

Crow is retiring in May and spoke about his experiences in fostering business and

education partnerships throughout his career.

As guests arrived they walked by photography taken by students at Yosemite High School. Centerpieces were painted by Madera High School students and students from Chowchilla High School painted the artwork for the program cover.

The event began with the Liberty High School California Cadet Corp's presentation of colors, followed by the national anthem sung by the Minarets High School Choir.

A video featuring the three Crystal Tower Award recipients was produced by the Madera South High School video production class. The video was shown preceding the acceptance of awards.

This year's keynote presentation highlighted past recipients of the award and the students they have impacted. Norman Allinder, Madera County Planning Director, recounted his experience as a student at Madera High School and how going through the engineering program helped him.

The luncheon was hosted by the Madera County Compact and was held at the Madera Municipal Golf Course.

The Madera County Compact is a group of business, community and education leaders working collaboratively to support efforts to improve the quality of life in Madera County. Eric Kurtz, chairman of the Compact, served as master of ceremonies.

Past recipients of the Crystal Tower Award from Eastern Madera County have been Sierra Telephone and Ponderosa Telephone.