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Contact: Mayor’s Office of Communications, 415-554-6131

*** PRESS RELEASE ***

MAYOR LEE ANNOUNCES TEN RECIPIENTS OF 2012 MAYOR’S TEACHER OF THE MONTH AWARD

Sixth Annual Teacher of the Month Awards Recognize Ten Dedicated Teachers for Educating City’s Youth

San Francisco, CA—Mayor Edwin M. Lee today announced ten recipients of the 2011-2012 Mayor’s Teacher of the Month Award and will recognize them this evening during a San Francisco Giants’ home plate ceremony at AT&T Park.

“I would like to acknowledge and celebrate our dynamic public school teachers in San Francisco who have dedicated their lives to giving our City’s youth the education they need to succeed in life,” said Mayor Lee. “These ten individuals are teachers who put their students first and continue to inspire us all. I am proud of all of our City’s educators who are making a difference.”

“I speak from personal experience when I say a teacher can change a young person’s life. I wouldn’t be standing here today if my 7th grade teacher didn't give me the support I needed to succeed at school and become a leader,” said SFUSD Superintendent Carlos Garcia. “Today it is an honor to celebrate SFUSD teachers who serve as role models, help our students to succeed in the classroom, but more importantly help young people to believe in themselves.”

Established in 2006, the San Francisco Mayor’s Teacher of the Month Award Program is a collaborative project organized by the Office of the Mayor, San Francisco Unified School District, the United Educators of San Francisco and the San Francisco Education Fund. These awards recognize the outstanding San Francisco public school educators for their dedication, professionalism, and work on behalf of the City’s young people. Recipients of the Mayor’s Award were nominated by the community – parents, youth, educators, administrators, and other community members – for excellence in their classroom, their school and their City.

Mayor Lee recognized the work of ten outstanding teachers, each representing one month of the 2011-2012 school year. This year’s Mayor’s Teacher of the Month Award recipients are:

• Debra Netkin, Lawton Alternative School
• Dieter Rogers, Rooftop Burnett Campus (K-4)
• Elissa Matross, Gordon J. Lau Elementary School
• Hana Huang, Miraloma Elementary School
• Jason Murphy-Thomas, George Washington High School
• Keith Carames, Ruth Asawa School of the Arts
• Laura Chinn-Smoot, Spring Valley Science School
• Marcia Coleman, Argonne Year Round Alternative School
• Marisa Martinez Lusinchi, El Dorado Elementary School
• Robert Sautter, Leonard R. Flynn Elementary School
Each teacher will receive a check, an award from Tiffany & Co. and gifts and contributions from San Francisco institutions including the California Academy of Sciences, the de Young Museum, SFMOMA and Beach Blanket Babylon and from other organizations including Gap, Chevron, Hilton and San Francisco Pier 39.

The nomination and selection process for the Mayor’s Teacher of the Month Award occurs yearly. Nominations are accepted throughout the year. For more information, go to: www.sfgov.org/teacheraward

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