

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 28, 2009**

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San Joaquin Engineers Council

**SAN JOAQUIN ENGINEERS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES  
JOHN LARSON  
AS RECIPIENT OF THE  
2009 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

The San Joaquin Engineers Council is pleased to announce San Joaquin Delta College teacher **John Larson** as the recipient of their **2009 Distinguished Service Award**. The award recognizes individuals who have shown exceptional dedication, commitment, and contribution to the engineering profession.



John Larson began teaching over thirty-five years ago. He started his career teaching at Amador High School in Sutter Creek before moving to San Joaquin Delta College in 1983. Mr. Larson teaches computer drafting, graphics and mechanical design in Delta College's Engineering Technology Program.

John's dedication to education is evidenced by his commitment to the students and his active participation in programs that encourage their creativity and challenge their minds. Mr. Larson is active in VICA (Vocational and Industrial Clubs of America) at the high school level and not only encourages students to compete in drafting competitions but provides transportation as well. Mr. Larson started a VICA chapter at Delta College whose students have claimed the regional, statewide and national awards. Mr. Larson has also invested his time and experience into organizing the state VICA competitions.

As the driving force behind the formation of VEDA (Valley Drafting Educators Association) at Delta College, Mr. Larson has created a forum for Delta College and area high school drafting instructors to provide consistent course content to facilitate transfer credits. Mr. Larson also started "Engineering Day" at Delta College, a drafting competition of several hundred high school students. The competition is a team effort put on by Delta College engineering instructors with the help of both current and past students.

In the early 1990's, along with fellow instructor Charlie Robinson, Mr. Larson began Delta's participation in ASME's (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) Annual Human Powered Vehicle Competition where students design, build and race their own vehicles. Delta College regularly provides stiff competition for the 4-year colleges and universities, and has claimed the top honor in the past.

Mr. Larson grew up in the Santa Barbara area and received his Bachelors Degree in Industrial Engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. He continued on to earn a Masters Degree in Engineering and Computer Science from California State University, Sacramento. Mr. Larson and his wife have three children that are following in their father's footsteps. One has already graduated from Cal Poly and the other two are current students.

The award will be presented to Mr. Larson at the San Joaquin Engineers Council Annual Engineer's Banquet on February 19, 2009 at the University of the Pacific. The banquet is held during Engineer's

Week, a nation-wide event recognizing the works and contributions of the engineering profession. Please contact Ahmad Haya, 209-831-2300, or Deedee Antypas, 209-943-2021, for event information.

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