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For Immediate Release

CoSA Earns Prestigious Golden Bell Award ***Only 2009 Visual and Performing Arts Recipient in California***

December, 2009, Coronado, CA – Coronado School of the Arts (CoSA) is the only visual and performing arts school in California to receive a 2009 Golden Bell Award. Presented by the California School Boards Association (CSBA), the Golden Bell Awards promote excellence in education by honoring outstanding programs throughout California. CSBA seeks out and recognizes sustainable, innovative, or exemplary curricula that have been developed and successfully implemented by California teachers and administrators. It is a great honor.

The Golden Bell Award further recognizes CoSA as the leading high school arts conservatory in San Diego County. Earlier in the year, the San Diego County Office of Education deemed CoSA a “unique program” in San Diego County, enabling students from outside Coronado to attend without any barriers from their own districts. This produced a win-win situation for CoSA and Coronado Unified School District. Young artists from around the county enable CoSA to deliver a much more robust arts program, while bringing much-needed funding to the district.

“We’re incredibly pleased to have been chosen by CSBA for this award because it validates all of the hard work put in by our students, faculty, staff, and extended CoSA family,” says Kris McClung, founder and director of CoSA. The highly respected 30th annual Golden Bell Awards were presented at a special ceremony during CSBA’s Awards Luncheon at the Marriott Hotel and Marina in San Diego on December 5. CUSD superintendant Dr. Jeffery Felix; CUSD board members Dr. Kevin Lightner, Dawn Ovrrom, Bruce Shepherd, and Kathy Vienna; and CHS principal Karl Mueller and vice principal Jenny Moore attended the ceremony.

Many of the nearly 400 graduates from CoSA have gone on to achieve artistic success, including a writer/director whose film *Husk* is in production with Lionsgate, an illustrator whose impressive client list includes *Rolling Stone* magazine, an actor in *The Jumpitz*, and a professional composer/jazz pianist. Former CoSA students are currently attending arts programs at the nation’s most prestigious schools such as New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, Boston Conservatory, Berklee School of Music, and University of California Los Angeles.

About Coronado School of the Arts (CoSA)

CoSA is a public arts conservatory for high school students that embraces and encourages artistic creativity and academic excellence. This pre-professional arts program reaches out to talented students from all over San Diego County and offers a nurturing environment focused on individual growth, opportunity, and diversity.

CoSA is made possible by Coronado School of the Arts Foundation, a non-profit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation whose stakeholders are passionate about supporting Coronado School of the Arts (CoSA), improving community awareness of CoSA, and securing funds to perpetuate, improve and expand the

school's programs. For more information on CoSA or the Foundation, call 619.522.4050 or visit www.cosafoundation.org.

About California School Boards Association

CSBA is a non-profit association representing more than 1,000 K-12 school districts and county offices of education throughout California.

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