



## **Chabot Space & Science Center's Inaugural 'Accenture Teacher Award' Goes to Newark Instructor**

*—To Be Presented at the Annual Chabot Science Awards Gala, May 20—*

10 May 2006 -- (Oakland, CA) Chabot Space & Science Center is pleased to announce that Tom Collett, Earth Science and Astronomy instructor at Newark Memorial High School, is this year's recipient of the Accenture Teacher Award, to be presented at the Center's Gala on May 20, 2006. Accenture, a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company, has created the "Accenture Teacher of the Year Award" in an effort to bring visibility to the importance of science education in the public schools. Accenture has chosen Chabot to administer and present the \$5,000 award, which honors excellence in science teaching. Collett, a 13-year veteran at Newark Memorial High, created an Astronomy and Aerospace Science course, as well as the Marine Science and Technology Institute, a student run outreach program that trains high school students to become teachers and mentors to the community. Besides acting as Director of MaST, Collett serves as a mentor for other teachers, writes grants for education initiatives, and has coached teams to the National Finals in the Team America Rocketry Challenge – the world's largest model rocketry competition.

"I am very honored and pleased to receive the Accenture Teacher Award," said Mr. Collett. "I believe in public education and I am excited and challenged by my work with high school students. As a kid, I was an amateur magician and now I have the opportunity engage my students in the magic of science."

Students in the MaST program learn to operate a premier science outreach facility that includes an aquarium and a Starlab planetarium, provide instruction to elementary school visitors, and host open houses and star parties for Newark schools. By showcasing their knowledge, students are encouraged to consider careers as science teachers, researchers and naturalists.

"Far too often, it seems, we hear yet another troubling report about the state of our public education system and an apparent lack of student interest in the sciences," said Chris DiGiorgio, Accenture's Managing Director for Northern California. "Therefore, it's vitally important to highlight and recognize the good work that is getting done in this area and we are honored to be partnering with Chabot Space & Science Center in that effort. It's gratifying to have found such a worthy and dedicated educator as our recipient in the award's inaugural year."

Chabot's Gala is a fundraiser to support the Center's educational and teacher training programs. The theme of this year's Gala is "Reach for the Stars," and highlights the achievements of students in Galaxy Explorers, a youth development and education program that puts 14- to 18-year old youth to work as the museum's floor staff and outreach officers. The Gala will also include presentation of the Chabot

Science Award and will begin at 6 pm with a cocktail reception, followed by dinner, award presentations and a live auction.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Accenture** is a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company. Committed to delivering innovation, Accenture collaborates with its clients to help them become high-performance businesses and governments. Accenture employs more than 1,700 professionals in Northern California and maintains operations in 48 countries around the world. Its home page is [www.accenture.com](http://www.accenture.com).

**Newark Memorial High School** is located in Alameda County in the City of Newark, which is home to over 40,000 people. Newark Unified School District is comprised of eight elementary schools, two alternative high schools, one junior high, and one comprehensive high school, Newark Memorial High School. Newark Memorial High School serves over 2300 students from all ethnic and linguistic backgrounds. For more info, visit [www.nmhs.nusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.nmhs.nusd.k12.ca.us).

**Chabot Space and Science Center**, a Smithsonian affiliate, is a 501c3 nonprofit teaching and learning center focusing on astronomy and the inter-relationships of all the sciences. Its observatory, planetarium, exhibits, and natural park setting are a place where a diverse population of students, teachers, and the public can imagine, understand, and learn to shape their future through science.

**For more information, call (510) 336-7300, or visit [www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org)**

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