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(July 2, 2008)
Rosemount, MN

Retiring Director of Community Education Receives WCCO Good Neighbor Award



Ram Singh, retired Director of District 196 Community Education, received the WCCO Good Neighbor Award, Tuesday, July 1. The Good Neighbor Award identifies those who are respectful, trustworthy and are actively involved in the community. Singh accomplished a great deal in his 14 years as Director of District 196 Community Education. He has also been an active participant in the communities of Rosemount, Apple Valley, Eagan and Burnsville, which made him the perfect candidate for the Good Neighbor Award.

Since becoming Director of District 196 Community Education in 1994, Singh's leadership has produced award-winning Community Education programs that provide quality lifelong learning opportunities for more than 60,000 participants last year alone.

As a District 196 cabinet member, Singh has provided insightful and cooperative contributions including strengthening school-community relations, promoting citizen involvement and promoting excellence in both programs and services offered to its residents. Singh believes "together we can do anything" and this belief serves as an inspiration to his staff and public alike.

In 2004, Governor Tim Pawlenty appointed him to the Minnesota Board of School Administrators. He has also served on the Burnsville-Eagan Telecommunications Commission, Dakota County Collaborative Board and District 196 Collaborative.

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In 1993, Minnesota Community Educators Association recognized Singh with the Leadership Development Award and in 2002 he was the Community Educator of the Year. The National Community Educators Association also recognized him in 1994 with the Multicultural Leadership Award.

A native of Guyana, South America, Singh served his country as a teacher, police officer, government information officer, chairperson of his local district and council. He immigrated to U.S.A. in 1974. He retired from District 196 as Director of Community Education July 1, 2008.

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District 196 Community Education provides quality lifelong learning opportunities for more than 60,000 participants of all ages. District 196 serves more than 28,000 students in grades K-12 and includes all or part of Rosemount, Apple Valley, Eagan, Burnsville, Coates, Inver Grove Heights, Lakeville and Empire and Vermillion townships. For more information, visit www.district196.org/ce.