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Victor Valley Community College Press Release

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Endeavour School for Exploration Teacher Honored by Teachers R Heroes

The room was charged with energy as several classes of free thinking students gathered for an assembly that was called for topics unrelated to the actual purpose for the meeting.

The surprised assembly was called to honor Karen Baker, fifth-grade teacher at the Endeavour School of Exploration who was selected to receive the Teachers R Heroes Award for January 2010.

A student at the school nominated Ms. Baker by writing, "My teacher has been working very hard over the past few years to incorporate project based learning, a theory that has been gaining attention from scholars all over the world. The general idea is that the students learn and keep more information when as they deal with the concept with a more hands on approach. Students work in groups and the teacher is like a coach. Students are graded on the effort and the work they employ rather than the outcome. This way of teaching involves a lot of work on the part of the teachers. They don't go by a copied lesson plan from years past, they get ideas from students and parents and work many hours to gather materials and information for each project the class does. Each year they

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also do a joint project with the 5th and 6th grade classes. This year, they are teaming up to create a production studio created and designed by the students. They visited the NBC Studios in September for a tour, and are visiting the production studio at Victor Valley High School next month. The students are encouraged to not only build the production studio, but also learn about the business ideals that encompass such an endeavor. Most of the materials for these projects are gained through fundraising and parent or community donations. This form of teaching makes the learning environment fun and encourages students to be involved with all aspects of the curriculum. Ms. Baker works hard in everything she does and that's why she deserves to be a hero."

Teacher nominations may be submitted in the form of 500 words-or-less essays to www.vvc.edu. Anyone interested in making a nomination can go online to www.KATCOUNTRY1007.com, www.Y102FM.com, www.TheFox106.com, or www.Talk960.com, and find a link to the college's website.

Nominations may also be sent by mail to Victor Valley College, Teachers are Heroes, 18422 Bear Valley Road, Victorville, CA 92395, attention Dr. Lori Kildal.

The Teachers R Heroes Program is sponsored by Victor Valley College, San Bernardino County Schools, El Dorado Broadcasting, and the Daily Press. Contributing members of the community include: San Bernardino First District Supervisor, Brad Mitzelfelt, Staples, Victor Valley Hospital, Little Caesars Pizza, Pasco's Pizza, and Carino's Italian Restaurant.