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**ESPACE**

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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## **Local Astronomy Teacher named Outstanding Teacher by Statewide Technology Education Group**

**Antioch, March 19, 2006:**

Jeff Adkins, a teacher at Deer Valley High School in Antioch, California, was recently named Outstanding Teacher for 2006 by the Computer Using Educators (CUE), at their annual conference in Palm Springs, California. According to the CUE website, the "The Outstanding Teacher Award recognizes a classroom teacher who has made a noteworthy contribution to educational technology in a classroom setting. Creating standards-based curriculum using technology is the key element in this award. Nominees must be classroom teachers and CUE members in good standing." Only one teacher in California receives this award each year.

Adkins teaches Astronomy and Physics at Deer Valley High School in Antioch, California. He is also the director of the ESPACE Academy (Earth, Space, Astronomy Center for Education) which encourages students to participate in authentic astronomy research. Adkins' students have used space probes to look at distant quasars and the planet Mars and regularly use telescopes for astronomical research. "This award means CUE acknowledges the important role computers play in the science classroom," according to Adkins. "We use computers to collect the data, analyze the results, and present reports." Adkins' students also write and perform their own planetarium shows at the school's small planetarium, which Adkins designed. The academy and planetarium were funded by a grant from the California Department of Education.

In addition to astronomy research, Adkins also manages a number of web sites, which were mentioned in letters to CUE in support of his award. He maintains the science department web site at DVHS, a web site for astronomy educators called [www.AstronomyTeacher.com](http://www.AstronomyTeacher.com), and another site for the students participating in research and outreach projects called [www.Espaceacademy.com](http://www.Espaceacademy.com). He contributes two educational technology columns for the web site Low End Mac, including the Mac Lab Report, which gives details on how he has adapted technology for use in his classroom.

[www.AstronomyTeacher.com](http://www.AstronomyTeacher.com)

[www.ESPACEacademy.com](http://www.ESPACEacademy.com)

[www.lowendmac.com/lab](http://www.lowendmac.com/lab)

[www.dvhscience.com/dvhs/](http://www.dvhscience.com/dvhs/)