

# **Officer Tony Garcia**

## **Golden Apple Award**

### **Nov. 5, 2007**

In the three years Soldotna Police Department Officer Tony Garcia has conducted the D.A.R.E. program in Soldotna schools, he's become known for much more than just his efforts to discourage drug use. Along with teaching D.A.R.E., he does safety talks with younger students, teaches Internet safety, coaches and has been involved in school emergency plans.

It's his work outside of the classroom that gains him the most praise. He has the ability to relate and show respect to any age student. Officer Garcia is patient with students, and when he's had to step out of the classroom and into his police role at school, he's found balance between dealing with students and parents in a professional and personal manner. His patient, respectful interactions with students encourages them to trust law enforcement personnel and see them as sources of help, not just discipline.

Officer Garcia is a role model for students and a resource for staff members of the schools he serves. He often stops by schools just to check in with staff, meet with parents and interact with students, whether it's to deliver a crossing guard safety vest or teach the importance of bike helmets.

He is a frequent supporter of school activities, and students look forward to his presence. He is a fatherly influence to students who don't have one at home, and is a trusted counselor to anyone else who needs him.

We, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education, are proud to recognize Officer Tony Garcia for his dedication to safety and students in Soldotna schools.