Local news

Academy holds grand opening

Paramount Bard Academy celebrated its official grand opening Thursday with dignitaries from the community, the U.S. Department of Education, Paramount Agricultural Companies and Bard College.

The ceremony featured remarks by owners of Paramount Agricultural Companies Stewart and Lynda Resnick; President of Bard College Leon Botstein; Deputy Assistant Secretary for Rural Outreach at the U.S. Department of Education John White; Academy Principal Brent Malicote; Bard College Dean of Teacher Education Ric Campbell; and several student representatives. Tours of the school followed.

The academy — a collaborative effort of the Resnick Foundation, the Delano community, Paramount Agricultural Companies and Bard College — opened its doors for the school year Aug. 3 to 100 sixth- and ninth-graders. It expects to grow 200 students a year until it reaches a capacity of 700 students in grades 6-12 in the 2012-13 school year.

The school is committed to graduating students with a minimum of 30 hours of college credit, prepared to advance to college and complete post-secondary degrees. A primary goal of the Academy is to graduate no less than 95 percent of all students with the expectation that 75 percent or more of these students will go on to graduate from college.

"The Paramount Bard Academy is a school where daily lessons are filled with problem solving and deep thinking," said Malicote. "Our success is fueled by the high expectations that our students and staff have for themselves and each other. As our school continues to grow and develop, we expect to become a center for innovation and top performance in both teaching and learning in the Central Valley and beyond."

For more information about the school, go to www.paramountbard.com.

— *Paramount Bard news release*