

CRC FACULTY MEMBER RECEIVES AFT'S EVERYDAY HERO AWARD

By Dennis Smith

"We will fight for these young men until hell freezes over. When hell freezes over we will stand and fight on the ice." These were the powerful words of CRC Professor Travis Parker said to those gathered in Philadelphia for the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) National Higher Education Issues Conference held in early April.

Travis is the recipient of the AFT's 2011 Everyday Hero award for his work as co-founder of the "Alpha Academy" a tremendously successful volunteer organization focused on the educational and other needs of 12-18 year old African-American males in the local community.

In addition to serving as Professor of Physical Education and Athletics at Cosumnes River College for over 38 years, Travis Parker has given a lifetime of volunteer work to his community. He has provided a pathway to success for young African American male students by reaching into the community and providing coaching, mentoring, character education, and life skill training.

In coalition with an array of community partners, including Cosumnes River College, Travis co-founded the "Alpha Academy," which has a staff of volunteer instructors who provide after-school tutoring, homework support, and academic enrichment activities for middle and high school students on the community college



campus. The academy programs include a professionally facilitated parent support group focused on learning the skills needed to help close the achievement gap for their children.

Travis Parker's selfless and tireless work serves to provide inspiration through education as a means for students to become productive citizens and lifelong learners. Congratulations to Travis for recognition as an AFT 2011 Everyday Hero award winner. ■