



**BANK
OF THE
SIERRA**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 27, 2009
Contact: Matthew Hessler, CFMP
Title: Director of Marketing
Phone: (559) 782-4900 or (888) 454-BANK
NASDAQ Symbol: BSRR
Website Address: www.bankofthesierra.com

Sierra Grant to Fund Encourage Tomorrow Mentoring Program

Porterville, CA — Bank of the Sierra is pleased to announce a \$2,000 Sierra Grant awarded to Encourage Tomorrow (ENTO). The mission of ENTO is to provide quality educational programs that enrich students and families and help them build healthy lifestyles. The funds will go toward the general operating expenses for the “Las Hermanitas Mentoring Program” (Little Sister Mentoring Program) for youth at Roosevelt High School. The program strives to help high schools students enhance their education so that they can set and achieve positive goals. The program will focus on economic independence, post-secondary education, and long-term health.

“We feel it is important that high school students have an opportunity to learn skills to help them maintain a positive healthy lifestyle,” said Jim Holly, President and CEO of Bank of the Sierra.

About The Sierra Grant Program

The Sierra Grant Program is designed to improve the quality of life for the families, especially the children, who reflect the diversity within Bank of the Sierra branch communities. The Sierra Grant Program is focused on three areas: community services, park preservation, and education. Anyone involved in a non-profit program that is interested in a Sierra Grant can pick up an instructional brochure at any Bank of the Sierra branch, or visit the bank web site at www.bankofthesierra.com.

About Bank of the Sierra

With over \$1.3 billion in assets and strong performance ratios, Bank of the Sierra is the largest independently owned community bank headquartered in Southern San Joaquin Valley’s Heartland. The bank serves 15 different communities with 23 branches, two Ag Centers and one SBA Center. For more information visit the web site at www.bankofthesierra.com or call (888) 454-BANK.

#####