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PHOTO COURTESY OF MAUREEN JOHNSON

AMONG THE BEST: Left to right, **Connie Johnson of Academy for Academic Excellence in Apple Valley**, Leslie Smith, Anita Tucker of Victor Valley High School in Victorville, Brian Lamers, Excelsior Education Center in Victorville, and Patricia Abney of Quail Valley Middle School in Phelan won the 2011 History-Social Science Educator of Excellence Awards and are recognized for being among the best history and social studies teachers in the Inland Empire

Local social studies, history teachers honored

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SAN BERNARDINO • Four High Desert teachers have been recognized for being among the best history and social studies teachers in the Inland Empire.

The History - Social Science Educator of Excellence Awards program annually celebrates the achievement of top teachers in San Bernardino and Riverside counties who inspire students to perform at the highest level, use a

variety of approaches and strategies to engage students, promote advanced thinking and show leadership in and beyond the classroom.

Of 13 winners in 2011, four local teachers included:

- Patricia Abney, Quail Valley Middle School in Phelan;
- **Connie Johnson, Academy for Academic Excellence in Apple Valley;**
- Brian Lamers, Excelsior Education Center in Victorville; and
- Anita Tucker, Victor Valley High School in Victorville.

Teachers are usually nominated by their site and district supervisors and their peers.

The Inland Empire Council for the Social Studies, the Riverside County Office of Education and the San Bernardino Superintendent of Education chooses the winners.

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