

DR. HANUMANTHA DAMERLA RECEIVES LA COUNTY STARS! AWARD
By Kimberli Washington, Public Information Office



Hanumantha (Hanu) Damerla, M.D., Supervising Mental Health Psychiatrist from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH), received the LA County *STARS!* Award in the category of Service Excellence and Organizational Effectiveness at the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

Board Chairman, Supervisor Don Knabe, presented the LA County *STARS!* award scroll and LACDMH Director, Marvin Southard, D.S.W., spoke about the hard work and achievements Dr. Damerla has accomplished with LACDMH. Dr. Damerla currently serves as Medical Director for Juvenile Justice Camps and the Dorothy Kirby Center.



Dr. Damerla was nominated by TAYSOC Acting Deputy Director Terri Boykins, L.C.S.W., and TAYSOC District Chief, Juvenile Justice, Karen Streich. Dr. Damerla was

recognized by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry as a Distinguished Fellow, its highest honor. His leadership efforts have played a vital role in the Department's compliance with the federal Department of Justice, improvement in the quality of effective juvenile rehabilitation and reducing stigma barriers by implementing family engagement, education and staff-related trainings.

The LA County *STARS!* is a countywide public employee recognition program that expands the opportunity to recognize and celebrate exceptional achievements of County employees each month. The awarded categories are Service Excellence and Organizational Effectiveness, Workforce Excellence and Fiscal Sustainability. The recognition ceremony is held the first and third Tuesday of each month during the Board of Supervisors meeting.