

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CELEBRATE DIRECTING CHANGE
By Kathleen Piché, Public Affairs Director



On Tuesday, June 9, 2015, LA County Board Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Fifth District, presented Knight High School student, Roy Lara, and his advisor, Fabian Montagut, with scrolls in honor of winning the Third Annual *Directing Change* student film contest. The honored film, *A Second Chance*, won first place in the suicide prevention category. Jennifer Kirchner and Richard Martinez also worked on the project but could not attend.

Lara is a fifteen year-old student from Antelope Valley who is not only interested in film, but is actively creating new technology for computers. By participating in the contest, Roy learned that people are not defined by the label of a mental illness.

Directing Change is a statewide effort to prevent suicide and reduce stigma and discrimination related to mental illness and to promote the mental health and well-being of students. *Directing Change* is sponsored by *Each Mind Matters*, *California's Mental Health Movement* and funded by the Mental Health Services Act.

Three additional *Directing Change* winners (listed below) from LA County will have their entries screened in theater lobbies and prior to the main attraction this month and in July.

- LA Live in Los Angeles will air 2014 First Place winner *The Social Intervention* from John Marshall High School
- Glendora 12 in Glendora will air 2015 Second Place winner *You Are Not Alone* from Northview High School

- Antelope Valley Mall in Palmdale will air 2015 First Place winner *Thinking Out Loud* from William Pete High School



All winning films can be viewed on the *Directing Change* website:
<http://www.directingchange.org/about/>

Directing Change is part of statewide efforts to prevent suicide, reduce stigma and discrimination related to mental illness, and to promote the mental health and wellness of students. These initiatives are funded by the voter-approved Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63) and administered by the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA). CalMHSA is an organization of county governments working to improve mental health outcomes for individuals, families and communities, and administers programs on a statewide, regional, and local basis. For more information on CalMHSA visit: www.calmhsa.org

For information on the Each Mind Matters campaign:
<http://www.eachmindmatters.org/about-us/>