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**Venture Academy Names New Boys’ Basketball Coach**

STOCKTON, CA – The Venture Academy athletic department has tapped veteran basketball coach Al Toney to lead their boys’ basketball program moving forward into the upcoming 2016-17 season.

Toney has over 30 years of basketball coaching experience in the area from the high school Division I – Division 6 levels, including most-recently a 2014 CIF Playoff appearance as Head Coach at Golden Sierra High School. He was also selected as the “*Sierra Delta Coach of the Year*” in the league. The well-respected leader has also served as head coach at other Sacramento area schools, such as West Campus (D5), Grant (D1), Kennedy (D2), and Johnson (D2).

“We are very excited about being able to bring aboard a coach with the wealth of knowledge and accomplishments that Coach Toney will bring to our basketball program,” said Venture Academy Athletic Director, Jim Sells. “He is very respected in basketball circles all around the area, as he knows what it takes to build a program, develop players, and prepare student-athletes for success later in life.”

Toney is a former Division I NCAA collegiate athlete himself, as he was on scholarship at San Diego State University in both basketball and track & field. He graduated in 1985 after being a part of the Aztecs 1983 WAC Championship basketball squad and an individual All-Conference track award winner in 1984. After college, Toney continued his basketball career in Europe where he played professionally for three years.

He is currently a Physical Education teacher at Sam Brannan Middle School in Sacramento.

The veteran coach will find himself taking over a Venture Academy boys program that is coming off their first postseason playoff berth in school history after a 2015-16 season that saw the Mustangs finish 3rd in the CCAA League standings. The team went 10-4 in conference play and was highlighted by handing CCAA champs Brookside Christian their first loss in league play in over 4 seasons.