**Teacher receives Golden Apple award**

**BY HELIA NG**  
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In recognition of his outstanding student teaching, the Charter School of Education at California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA) awarded the Golden Apple Award to Deepak Gulati during its annual “Day of the Teacher” reception May 11.

Gulati is a first-year teacher currently teaching American literature and READ 180, a reading program that helps students raise reading achievement and prepare them for standardized tests, such as the California High School Exit Exam, and college coursework.

“I was pleasantly surprised. I knew it took a lot of work, and I was fortunate that I had one of the best master teachers [Elizabeth Rodarte] that trained me with instructional strategies and practice,” said Gulati.

Upon the recommendation of Rodarte, Gulati was nominated for the award, based on his exemplary work as a student teacher.

“This recognition is also a tribute to all those who made it possible. My heartfelt gratitude to my former professors at CSULA for their inspiring instruction, Ms. Honda, our captain, for welcoming me onboard the ‘Spartan ship’ and Ms. Rodarte, my remarkably qualified master teacher and mentor, for her invaluable guidance,” said Gulati.

According to the CSULA website, nominees must have been rated in the top 10% of student teachers during the past academic year and must have provided excellent work in the following practices: development of learning opportunities that effectively address the needs of children with special needs, instruction that encourages students to think, integration of cultural values within the classroom and completion of all the Directed Teaching competencies at an exemplary level.

To improve classroom learning, student reading and writing competency, Gulati uses a combination of visual, auditory, tactile and kinesthetic methods. He also utilizes technology in the classroom consistently and effectively by giving PowerPoint presentations to help strengthen and cement acquired skills.

“It [the award] has definitely energized me towards doing my very best for the students at Schurr,” said Gulati. “In my classroom, I wish to apply the effective and powerful strategies in the classroom gained through the elite faculty at CSULA and my master teacher and mentor Ms. Rodarte to help students gain advanced reading and writing skills.”