



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Judy Iannaccone
Director, Communications
Phone: (714) 480-7503
e-mail: iannaccone_judy@rsccd.org

September 20, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Three Community Partners Honored at 10th Annual Chancellor's Ball on October 12

(Santa Ana)—Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) will honor three organizations at its tenth annual Chancellor's Ball on Friday, October 12 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The black tie optional event is slated for Disneyland Hotel Grand Ballroom, 1150 Magic Way, Anaheim. The gala raises funds for the Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College Foundations to provide scholarships and books for students.

At the celebration of "A Decade of Distinction," Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; University of California, Irvine; and U.S. Small Business Administration will be recognized as the 2007 Partners in Education award recipients. These awards salute community partners who have provided ongoing support to the district, its colleges and its students. This year's honorees provided the following assistance:

- ❖ Through a growing partnership with the **Metropolitan Water District**, the Santiago Canyon College (SCC) Water Utility Science program has flourished. The SCC Water Utility Science program has evolved into a state leader through the resources that MWD has provided, including most recently a City Makeover grant to establish a water conservation demonstration garden on the SCC campus. SCC and MWD have also established the first Local Education Agency (LEA) for MWD's apprenticeship program in electrical mechanical maintenance. Students in the water utility science program receive specialized training using materials donated by MWD, benefit from field trips to MWD sites, and MWD guest speakers. In addition, MWD staff support the program by serving on the Technical Advisory Committee and the State Task Force on Apprenticeship and Skilled Trades.
- ❖ As the founding institution of the Santa Ana Partnership, the **University of California, Irvine**, in conjunction with Santa Ana College (SAC), has made a major impact on academic achievement and access to higher education for students in the Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD). As a result of this work, SAUSD students entering SAC are placing on average 1-2 course levels higher in English and mathematics than they were six years ago.

UCI has significantly helped SAC students with the creation of the Math, Engineering, & Science Achievement program (MESA) and the long-standing partnership allowing SAC nursing students to receive extensive training at UCIMC. Through the UCI Community College Intern Program, SAC faculty mentor UCI graduate students preparing for teaching careers at community colleges. SAC students benefit from the college's relationship with UCI by participating in academic institutes and special programs designed to develop their scholarship and research skills. To

- m o r e -

2-2-2

ensure that these efforts are measured in student success, a guaranteed transfer program to UCI for SAC students is in its fifth year and serves 100 students annually.

- ❖ RSCCD has a long history of partnering with the **U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Santa Ana District** to serve the business community through education, technical assistance, and access to capital. In 1991, RSCCD was the recipient of its first SBA grant to host and operate the Orange County Small Business Development Center (OCSBDC) in partnership with the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges and numerous local partners. Annually the OCSBDC helps over 3,000 small business owners and entrepreneurs to start, expand or grow their business. A resource partner to SBA, OCSBDC provides local small businesses with a one-stop source for technical assistance, access to financing, business development, and education and training.

In 2006, SBA expanded its partnership with RSCCD, when the RSCCD Foundation was awarded a grant from the SBA to establish a Women's Business Center in Orange County. That same year, the Center for Women's Business Research data identified Orange County as ranking 12th nationally among metropolitan areas for the number of privately-held, women-owned businesses. Through its funding from the SBA and other partners, such as the National Hispanic Business Women's Association, the RSCCD Foundation's Institute for Women Entrepreneurs (IWE) provides training, technical assistance, and consulting services to support the women-owned businesses countywide.

This year's event, "A Decade of Distinction," begins with a reception and silent auction at 6:00 p.m., dinner and entertainment get under way at 7:30 p.m. By 9:00 p.m., guests can anticipate dancing to the SOTO, one of the hottest Latin/funk-R&B dance bands in the region, known for soulful ballads, Latin rhythms, hot dance grooves and high energy stage shows. Miriam Hernandez, ABC7 Eyewitness News, serves as the event's mistress of ceremonies. "A Decade of Excellence" features performances by students from Santa Ana College's Fine and Performing Arts Division.

Tickets are available for \$200 per person; sponsorship range from \$2,000 to \$15,000. The ball's major sponsors include Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios, Inc.; LPA; OCTFCU; Disneyland; McMahan Business Interiors; RBC Dain Rauscher; Seville Construction Services; and The Feldhake Law Firm. For event information and reservations, call (714) 480-7450 or visit www.rscdd.org/cb07.

###

About the Rancho Santiago Community College District

The mission of the Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) is to respond to the educational needs of an ever-changing community and to provide programs and services that reflect academic excellence. Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College are public community colleges of RSCCD, which serve the residents of Anaheim Hills, East Garden Grove, Irvine, Orange, Santa Ana, Tustin and Villa Park. Both colleges provide education for academic transfer and careers, courses for personal and professional development, customized training for business and industry, and programs to train nurses, firefighters and law enforcement personnel.