



NEWS

December 10, 2007

For Immediate Release

Contact: Nikita C. Flynn or Angela Burrell
Public Affairs Public Information Office-
Santa Ana College SAUSD
Ph: 714-564-6475 Ph: 714-558-5555

U.S. News & World Report Ranks Middle College High Among 'Best High Schools' in the Nation

Partnership between SAUSD and Santa Ana College Benefits Students

SANTA ANA, CA – Middle College High School, part of the Santa Ana Unified School District and located on the Santa Ana College campus, has been ranked as one of “The Best High Schools” in the United States by *U.S. News & World Report* magazine.

Middle College High, led by principal Jean B. Williams, was one of 405 top-performing high schools nationwide to earn a silver medal based on their results. This past June, 13 Middle College High seniors earned their diploma and associate’s degree—the most to do so in one year since the school’s inception on the campus of Santa Ana College a decade ago.

“To say we are proud of this achievement would be an understatement as it serves as a powerful indicator of our progress in delivering quality instruction to students,” said Jane A. Russo, Superintendent, Santa Ana Unified School District. “I want to commend the leadership of Principal Jean Williams, the faculty, staff and the students of Middle College for their efforts and this tremendous accomplishment. Thanks also goes to our partners at Santa Ana College who work with us side by side in this effort.”

Middle College High is a joint collaboration between the Rancho Santiago Community College District and the Santa Ana Unified School District. Santa Ana College (SAC) serves as the community college host of MCHS, an early college access program in which students have the opportunity to concurrently pursue a high school diploma and college degree. Students take high school curriculum courses, which are required by SAUSD, and they also take college courses to fulfill requirements by the State of California for earning an associate degree.

“We are excited for the faculty, staff & students at Middle College High School and Santa Ana College for earning this great honor,” said Erlinda J. Martinez, Ed.D., president of Santa Ana College. “In its more than 90 year history, SAC has educated thousands of students and we have diligently sought ways to continuously increase access to a college education. This recognition by *U.S. News & World Report* demonstrates that we are on the right track and we will continue our collective efforts in supporting student success.”

-more-

Middle College High is part of the Middle College National Consortium (MCNC) which aims to make college a reality for traditionally under-served youth. MCNC consists of a network of high schools across the nation, situated on community college campuses that provide under performing youth in the public sector, with access to college. Santa Ana College has hosted Middle College High since 1997.

A total of 18,790 public high schools in 40 states was analyzed using a review of data including reading and math test scores, performance of the school's least advantaged students (black, Hispanic and low-income), and Advanced Placement data to determine "America's Best."

#

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.

About the Santa Ana Unified School District

Santa Ana Unified encompasses 55,000 diverse students in grades K-12 and employs over 4,000 educators and staff members representing 63 dynamic school sites throughout the eclectic and vibrant Santa Ana community. Contact us at 714-558-5555, or pioinfo@sausd.us. For more information about our schools, visit www.sausd.us.

#