



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Former Santa Ana College Student Vicente Serrano Returns to Screen His Documentary "A Forgotten Injustice" on October 19 *Uncovering the Story of Expulsion of Almost Two Million Mexican Americans from the U.S. in the 1930s***

(Santa Ana)—When Vicente Serrano was a child, he would listen to his Grandmother tell stories of her childhood in Los Angeles while living in Navojoa, Sonora, Mexico. Despite having spent seven decades in Mexico, she still referred to herself as a “gringa.” It wasn’t until years later that Serrano recognized that his family’s story was not an anomaly, but rather a forgotten chapter in our history books.

On Monday, October 19, Serrano, an Emmy-award winning broadcast journalist host of “Sin Censura” which airs on Azteca America Chicago and also contributes to [www.ChicagoNOW.com](http://www.ChicagoNOW.com) an online portal of the Chicago Tribune, will return to Santa Ana College to show his documentary, “A Forgotten Injustice.” The film, an official selection of the Chicago Latino Film Festival 2009, is the first documentary that uncovers the story of almost two million Mexican Americans and U.S. citizens, who were expelled from the United States to Mexico during the Great Depression in the 1930s. They were forced to leave for one reason—they were of Mexican descent.

In the 1930s, the United States was devastated by the crash of the stock market and many officials thought that Mexicans were taking jobs and public services from “real” Americans. They came up with the idea of solving the economic problems of the country by deporting as many Mexicans as possible.

According to co-authors Raymond Rodriguez and Francisco Balderrama in their *Decade of Betrayal*, not only were these repatriated Mexican American U.S. citizens forced to live in a country where they may never have lived or no longer fit, but where they were viewed as outsiders.

It wasn’t until Serrano was working for Univision in Phoenix, AZ, that he put the pieces of what happened to his Grandmother together. At that time, then California State Senator Joseph Dunn sponsored a bill called the “Apology Act for the 1930s Mexican Repatriation Program.”

“I started working on a project that I thought was going to be a book. I wanted to tell the story of my Grandmother,” said Serrano “When I started the research for the book I realized that this was

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not an exclusive story of my Grandma, but rather the buried story of more than a million men, women and children who suffer like her ‘A Forgotten Injustice.’” He traveled across the country, and to Mexico to capture the experiences of the men and women whose lives dramatically changed after they were “repatriated” and forcibly deported to Mexico.

Serrano was born and raised in Navojoa, Sonora, México, and came to the United States when he was 18 years old. He recounts how he enrolled at Santa Ana College “by accident.” His mother saw an ad in a Spanish-language newspaper about the college’s video/TV program, “Noticiero Latino del Condado de Orange,” the first Spanish-language college newscast in the U.S. She reminded him that he had always dreamed of a career in TV and he should go and he started taking classes.

“It is really a special occasion for me to go back to the college and visit my instructors and show them what I have done,” said Serrano. “I have presented at Notre Dame and other universities, but this one is really special. I learned everything I know today in the classrooms of Santa Ana College. I didn’t speak a word of English when I registered at SAC. They encouraged me to learn and practice.”

After attending SAC, he became the youngest general assignment reporter for KWHY-22 in 1998. A year later, he was hired by Univision’s local news station in Los Angeles KMEX-34, and in 2000, moved to Phoenix, Arizona, to become the youngest news anchor in the country for KTTW-33. He also worked as a national correspondent for Noticiero Univision National until 2003. In 2003, he moved to Chicago, Illinois, as the primetime news anchor for the NBC-Telemundo’s station.

He received the Golden Mic Award in 2001 from the Southern California Broadcaster’s Association for Best Financial Report “A guide for Latinos to report taxes to Uncle Sam.” He was awarded three Emmys from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Two of them were in 2002 and 2003 from the Mountain Chapter in Phoenix, Arizona, for Best Series Hard News “The Killings of women in Juarez, México” and Best Hard News Coverage No Time Limit for “David’s miracle.” He was awarded the third Emmy in 2004 by the Midwest Chapter in Chicago, Illinois, for “Las Muertas de Juarez.” He was a columnist for the newspaper *HOY*, owned by the Tribune Publishing Company from 2003 to 2006.

The free screening is slated for 11:00 a.m. in Santa Ana College’s Phillips Hall. For more information, call (714) 241-5778.

**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.*

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