



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Two Santa Ana Residents Appointed to Orange County Community College Legislative Task Force**

(Santa Ana)—The Board of Trustees for the Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) unanimously voted at its last regularly scheduled meeting to appoint Benjamin Mendoza, a Santa Ana business owner, to a one-year term as the community representative to the Orange County Community College Legislative Task Force (OCCCLTF). Santa Ana resident and educator, Gregory Barraza, an alumnus of Santa Ana College (SAC), was selected as the alternate representing RSCCD. Mendoza's term on the Task Force began this month and will conclude in June 2010. Barraza will assume the role of community representative in August 2010.

The Task Force is comprised of a representative from each governing Board of Orange County's four community college districts, one community member from each college district and the chancellor of each college district. The mission of the Task Force is to identify legislative and policy priorities for the region's community colleges and to work collectively to advocate for resources and legislation that increases access and college affordability for students.

In their role as the RSCCD community representative and alternate, Mendoza and Barraza will meet with local, state and federal elected officials to discuss issues of interest to Orange County's community colleges.

Mendoza, a founding member of the South Santa Ana Merchants Association (SSAMA), currently serves on the association's Board of Directors. Previously, he served as vice president and treasurer. He was named Business Man of the Year by the SSAMA in both 2005 and 2007. In 2005, he was also named the Business Man of the Year for the 69<sup>th</sup> District by the California Small Business Association. Moreover, he has been honored for his service to the community by the City of Santa Ana. He has been a resident of Santa Ana for 27 years.

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Barraza, a graduate of SAC and Santa Ana Unified School District, is a part-time faculty member at SAC and an instructor with the Orange County Department of Education. He holds two master's degrees – one in English from Chapman University and the other in educational leadership from California State University, Fullerton. Barraza is a 33-year resident of Santa Ana.

**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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