



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Firefighters Honored for Service and Sacrifice on November 24
** Rancho Santiago Community College District and Santa Ana College host event ****

(Santa Ana) —Next week, as families ready for the Thanksgiving holiday, hundreds will gather to honor the county’s firefighters. Dubbed the Orange County Firefighters Thanksgiving Luncheon and Program, the event will be held on **Tuesday, November 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** to pay tribute to the selfless service of the county’s fire chiefs, fire suppression and fire prevention personnel and fire paramedic units. The event, sponsored by the Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) and Santa Ana College (SAC), will be held at the Orange County Sheriff’s Regional Training Academy at 15991 Armstrong Ave. in Tustin. Every city fire department and the Orange County Fire Authority will be represented at the event.

“Many of the fire chiefs and firefighters in Orange County are graduates of the SAC’s Basic Fire Academy or are alumni of our fire officer training program,” explained Edward Hernandez, Jr., Ed.D., chancellor of RSCCD. “This event is designed to honor local firefighters for their courage and commitment, and for all they do each day to sustain a high quality, safe environment for Orange County residents. This event is our collective effort to express our appreciation,” Hernandez said.

For the past 50 years, SAC has provided fire technology instruction to firefighters statewide. Today, the college boasts the largest accredited fire technology programs in the state, serving more than 13,500 students annually - 4,500 through fire and lifeguard agencies, 3,000 through the fitness and wellness programs, 4,000 through officer training programs, and another 2,000 through the pre-Academy program on the main campus in Santa Ana. In addition, the campus is distinguished for conferring the largest number of associate degrees in fire technology nationally from a public access institution.

Through the generosity of corporate and private donations, the fire chiefs and firefighters will be hosted for lunch, with all other guests buying tickets at \$25 per person. For reservations, call 714-480-7450 (Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).

About Rancho Santiago Community College District

Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College are public community colleges of the Rancho Santiago Community College District, which serves the residents of Anaheim Hills, 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, and customized training for business and industry.

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