



NEWS RELEASE

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

O.C. Kindergarten Students Go to College for a Day *KinderCaminata Brings Careers to Kids*

(Santa Ana)—Since 1994, an Orange County rite of spring has been the annual pilgrimage of thousands of excited, giggling kindergarten students to local college campuses. On Friday, March 20, busloads of children, teachers and parents, will first be spotted at Fullerton College and Santiago Canyon College.

Nearly 4,000 Orange County youngsters will participate in this year's KinderCaminata on four campuses. The outreach program was founded in 1993 by Los Amigos of Orange County, a service organization dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities in the Latino community. The first event was held at Santa Ana College in 1994 when 2,000 students attended.

"KinderCaminata offers children the promise of unlimited potential. We make college real; we show kindergartners that college is totally within their reach," said Diane Singer, president of KinderCaminata. "By targeting children of low-income families, KinderCaminata helps both the children and parents understand the value of higher education."

This "children's walk" opens the door to a brighter future for area youngsters: viable career choices, a college education, and support for their cultural heritage. Each youngster arrives on campus wearing a name tag announcing his or her dream career and the event introduces them to additional career choices. Career booths entice the youngsters with displays and demonstrations designed to capture their imagination.

"KinderCaminata exposes youngsters to higher education," said Singer. "Our career stations give them a hands-on experience with a wide range of possible futures, many of which require a college education. As they repeat, 'Sí, se puede,' they know that college is possible and that their dreams are attainable."

At **Santiago Canyon College on Friday, March 20**, children will be led into a mock courtroom by a bailiff and come face to face with the Honorable Carolyn Kirkwood, Orange County Superior Court, who will talk about judicial careers. Gemologist, goldsmith and diamond

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setter Lothar Vallot will dazzle the youngsters with his precious stones as he talks about a career in jewelry design. The Orange County Zoo will highlight careers in wildlife management and the protection of endangered species while showing off animal pelts. Other booths include Fresh and Easy Markets, ATT, CHOC, OC Health Care Agency, and Orange County Fire Authority.

Also on **March 20**, the **Fullerton College KinderCaminata** will delight children with face painting offered by its cosmetology program. The college’s Disability Student Services will introduce children to sign language, a wheelchair obstacle course, and working animals.

On **March 27 at 10:00 a.m.**, **Santa Ana College’s** event will feature 1,000 children marching and chanting “Sí, se puede,” from the central campus career stations to the college’s soccer field for lunch and entertainment. The “KinderCaminata” will be led by **Grand Marshal Orange County Sheriff Sandra Hutchens** and include Tuffy the Titan, Peter the Anteater, the Reading Dog, and Pinky. Career booths at the college feature Santa Ana Fire Department, Santa Ana Police Department, and Irvine Ranch Conservancy.

The dates and times of the Orange County events follow:

Fullerton College	Friday, March 20	9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Santiago Canyon College	Friday, March 20	8:30 a.m. to 11:30 am
Santa Ana College	Friday, March 27	8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Cypress College	Friday, April 3	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The annual children’s march is inspired by César Chávez’s perseverance and vision and is held near his March 31 birth date. On the day of the event, kindergarteners are given caps with Chávez’s motto, “Sí, se puede” (Yes, you can).

About KinderCaminata

KinderCaminata is a non-profit organization supported by its annual fundraiser, Salute to Chancellors, Presidents, Superintendents & Community Leaders, and is governed by a volunteer board of directors composed of four Orange County community college district chancellors, university, business and community leaders. KinderCaminata coordinates the first-time visit by thousands of kindergarten students to colleges in southern and northern California.

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