



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **KinderCaminata Salutes New Chancellors, Presidents, Superintendents and Community Leaders on February 25**

(Santa Ana)—KinderCaminata will honor eight new chancellors, presidents, and superintendents at its 17<sup>th</sup> annual fundraiser on Wednesday, February 25. The event will be held at the Orange County Department of Education, 200 Kalmus Dr., Conference Room D-1001, Costa Mesa from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

“KinderCaminata offers children the promise of unlimited potential. We make college real; we show kindergartners that college is totally within their reach; it’s achievable; it’s part of their community, part of their reality,” said Diane Singer, president of KinderCaminata.

Honorees for the event include Jose Banda, superintendent, Anaheim City School District; Gregory Magnuson, superintendent, Buena Park School District; Susan Belenardo, Ed.D., La Habra City School District; Ellen Curtin, Ed.D., Magnolia School District; Renae Dreier, Ed.D, Orange Unified School District; Dr. Tod A. Burnett, president, Saddleback College; Dr. Ned Doffoney, chancellor, North Orange County Community College District; and Dr. Michael J. Kasler, president, Cypress College.

The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the 2009 Corazon Awards in recognition of longtime leadership in advancing academic achievement of students. The 2009 recipients are Senator Lou Correa, California Senate 34<sup>th</sup> District; Sergio Contreras, board member, Westminster School District; and Jim Moreno, president, Coast Community College District Board of Trustees.

In 2009, KinderCaminata is expected to serve approximately 6,000 children, six community colleges, and 17 school districts in Orange County. Since 1993, KinderCaminata has introduced over 82,000 students to institutions of higher education. Through hands-on demonstrations by local public servants, including firefighters, law enforcement officers, and health professionals, children learn about career opportunities that college makes possible.

”We were a little worried, at first, that with the budget crisis, our program would be

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scaled down dramatically, but thanks to the very generous support of business and the community we will be able to keep our promise to the children. Our success is proof positive that the community cares deeply about our children, and that no matter what, education is first on their list of priorities,” said Singer.

Reservations for the event are \$100 per person. Sponsorships are also available ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Sponsors include Disneyland, SchoolsFirst Credit Union, Orange County Department of Education, Santa Ana College, Santiago Canyon College, North Orange County Community College District, and Assemblymember Tony Mendoza. For more information, please contact Eleazar Elizondo at (323) 855-6144 and <http://kindercaminata.ocde.us>.

**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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