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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rancho Santiago Community College District Awarded \$611,000 to Support Programs at Santa Ana and Santiago Canyon Colleges
Pharmacy Technology and AmeriCorps Programs Benefit

(Santa Ana)—Rancho Santiago Community College District has been awarded two grants totaling \$611,000 to support programs at Santa Ana and Santiago Canyon colleges. A two-year \$400,000 economic stimulus grant through the California Colleges Chancellor's Office will help Santa Ana College's pharmacy technology program expand at a time of unprecedented budget cuts. Additionally, Santiago Canyon College's AmeriCorps program will receive a federal grant of \$211,151 through California Volunteers, the state office that manages statewide volunteer initiatives.

"Rancho Santiago Community College District is honored to be selected for both of these important grants," said Edward Hernandez, Jr., Ed.D, district chancellor. "This financial support will open the door to more students for training as pharmacy technicians at Santa Ana College (SAC) and will help boost educational attainment through the AmeriCorps program at Santiago Canyon College (SCC)."

SAC is the only community college in Orange County that offers a pharmacy technology degree program. According to the California Employment and Development Department, there is a statewide shortage of pharmacy technicians. The estimated growth of this career field between 2006 and 2016 is 36 percent.

The grant will be used to do the following:

- Increase enrollment by a minimum of 100 students over two years.
- Hire one full-time faculty member.
- Increase the hours for skills lab coordinator and hire an instructional assistant.
- Provide additional student support services such as tutoring with the goal of increasing entry level class completion rate to 85 percent.
- Expand partnerships with pharmacies to provide more clinical placement sites for students.
- Graduate 85 additional students.
- Increase the state licensure exam passing rate to 95 percent for those who take the test.

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The one-year Santiago Canyon College AmeriCorps program grant will fund the Learning Highways Tutoring Program (LHTP) at SCC. The award will support 76 AmeriCorps members recruited from the SCC student body who will provide reading and math tutoring at Fletcher, Olive, and Riverdale elementary schools in the Orange Unified School District. The LHTP members will also provide parent literacy sessions each semester at each school to increase the frequency and quality of parent-led reading sessions with their children. LHTP volunteers will also assist with a “Celebrate Reading and Math Success” program and the “Family Math Night” project at each school.

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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