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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Rancho Santiago Community College District Appoints Student Trustee**

(Santa Ana)—Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) has appointed 47-year-old Gloria Holguin to serve as the student representative on its Board of Trustees.

Holguin, a second-year business administration and criminal justice major at Santa Ana College (SAC) with a 3.76 GPA, completed her associate degree in June. She is currently enrolled in classes at SAC to finish transfer requirements for the University of Southern California where she plans on attaining her bachelor's degree in criminal justice and social work.

A single mother with two sons—16-year-old Christopher and 27-year-old Joseph Anthony—had for years juggled full-time employment at Verizon and her dream of a higher education. Bit by bit, she had completed all core courses at the University of Phoenix. When the opportunity to retire from Verizon after 28 years of service came, she grabbed it and focused her attention on completing her associate degree at SAC.

“As a returning student, I felt that there was a lack of representation for students like me, especially when I was a night student,” she said. “I hope I can provide that voice, as well as represent *all* students.”

No stranger to volunteer service, she quickly became active in student life on the Santa Ana campus. In 2008, she joined Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and served as its vice president. Through that organization, she volunteered for Mary's Kitchen providing food for the homeless and helped raise funds for relief efforts following an earthquake in Indonesia. In 2009, she joined the Associated Student Government and served as its legislative commissioner. In April, she traveled to Sacramento to advocate for community college students and programs as state legislators considered drastic budget cuts. In 2009, she also joined the SHEEA (Students for Hispanic Equal Education Attainment) and serves as its vice president.

“Our goal is to mentor and advocate for Hispanic students, especially AB 540 students,”

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Holguin said. "With a greater sense of support, we hope that more students will move on to complete their higher education."

Holguin, who grew up in East Los Angeles' projects, is one of 16 siblings. She is the first in her family to graduate from college. Now, her goal is be a role model for both her sons and her two grandchildren. "I want to motivate my sons to go to college; we have to be proactive for our kids."

In 2008 and 2009, she received the Garden Grove Unified School District's Administrator's Association Award that recognized her for her longtime efforts on behalf of Los Amigos High School. She has logged thousands of hours as a band booster. In 2007, she was honored with the Verizon Service Excellence Award, presented to the employee who demonstrated the highest level of customer service.

One month into her tenure as student trustee, she is exploring how best to serve her fellow students. To stay informed, she will keep in close communication with the student body presidents at Santa Ana and Santiago Canyon colleges. Issues of importance include adequate parking, finishing construction projects on both campuses, and keeping enrollment fees reasonable.

"I am coming in at the worst possible time," said Holguin. "Due to the economy, our college district has been forced to make unprecedented budget cuts. I hope to communicate and inform my fellow trustees to the best of my ability and will keep the best interests of all students in mind at all times."

### **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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