



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **"Santa Ana College Book of the Year" Campaign Kicks Off October 15 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street* Includes Play and Teaching Across the Curriculum**

(Santa Ana)—During the coming year, in classrooms, onstage, and all across the Santa Ana College campus, students, faculty, and staff will talk to each other about one topic. No, it won't be the economy or progress on the college's latest construction project. Students and co-workers will be talking about one book—Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*—the inaugural Santa Ana College (SAC) Book of the Year.

In conjunction with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of [\*The House on Mango Street\*](#), the year-long interdisciplinary celebration kicks off with the Theatre Arts Department's production of "The House on Mango Street." The play, adapted by Amy Ludwig from Sandra Cisneros' book, offers a series of vignettes that provide an intimate glimpse into the thoughts and feelings of a young Latina, Esperanza, growing up in the Chicago barrio.

The play opens on the SAC Phillips Hall stage Thursday, October 15 at 8:00 p.m. Additional performances are slated for October 16, 17, 22, 23, and 24 at 8:00 p.m. Sunday matinees are planned for October 18 and 25 at 2:30 p.m. General admission is \$12; students/seniors/staff tickets are \$10; and children under 12 are \$8. Tickets may be purchased online through this [link \(http://ext.sac.edu/academic\\_progs/theatre\\_arts/events/\)](http://ext.sac.edu/academic_progs/theatre_arts/events/) or by calling (714) 564-5661.

"It's a challenging play with 33 scenes, a cast of 22 including several children under age 14," said director Sheryl Donchey. "Two actors portray the protagonist Esperanza—Anaheim resident Guadalupe Correa is the 36-year-old Esperanza and Santa Ana resident Bernadette Martinez portrays the 12-year-old Esperanza. The two Esperanzas are always onstage together." In addition to the fall theatre production, college and Middle College High School faculty will highlight the coming-of-age novella in their lesson plans. English and ESL classes will read the book. Sociology and cultural anthropology classes will examine urban realities reflected in

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*The House on Mango Street*. Ethnic and women's studies classes will consider how young women are raised in different cultures.

The campus "Book of the Year" activities will include a Latina authors' forum during the spring semester, student and faculty forums, a Web site with curriculum suggestions for faculty, college-wide informal book discussions, and a Latino film series in the fall and spring semesters. The year-long activities will culminate in a competition of student works that will include poetry, essays, short stories, visual art, music, and performance pieces inspired by *The House on Mango Street*. Winning submissions will be presented in a grand finale event in late April on the Phillips Hall stage.

*The House on Mango Street*, first published in 1984, won the Before Columbus Foundation's American Book Award in 1985, and is read in middle schools, high schools, and universities across the country. It deals with a young Latina girl, Esperanza Cordero, growing up in the Chicago Chicano ghetto. Esperanza is determined to leave her impoverished barrio behind. Major themes include her pursuit of a better life and her pledge to come back for "the ones I left behind."

For more information about Santa Ana College Book of the Year, contact Yolanda Garcia at (714) 564-6717.

**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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