

NEWS release

Santiago Canyon College

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Santiago Canyon College Hosts Annual Trig Star Event *Fun activities introduce students to careers in surveying*

Orange—High school, community college students and interested parents from throughout Orange County are invited to attend Trig Star, a fun day of activities designed to introduce young people to well-paying careers in land surveying and mapping sciences. The event will be held on Saturday, March 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Santiago Canyon College in Orange. Students can win cash and prizes in the trigonometry competition and the Land Surveyors Challenge. The event includes free parking, lunch and informational exhibits. The cost is \$2 per family.

This year's Trig Star event is scheduled to coincide with the end of National Surveyors Week. In 2008, more than 300 students from Orange County high schools and community colleges attended Trig Star. This year's prizes include cash awards of \$500, \$300 and \$200 for first, second and third place in the trigonometry competition. Winners in the Land Surveyors Challenge will receive gift certificates, and one grand prize will be awarded.

"We want young people to know about the great careers available in surveying and mapping," said Greg Sebourn, Santiago Canyon College surveying/mapping sciences program co-facilitator and senior survey project manager at Johnson-Frank and Associates, Inc. "Despite the current poor economy, this is still a growth industry. At Santiago Canyon College we offer a five-class certificate program in surveying that enables students to qualify for entry-level employment right away."

With the recent passage of the \$787 billion federal stimulus package, \$150 billion of which is dedicated to public works, local agencies anticipate a sharp increase in infrastructure spending. Also, considering that the average age of a California licensed land surveyor is approximately 55, their anticipated retirements will create a huge demand for skilled workers.

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Surveyors and mapping technicians may find jobs in government, engineering, architecture, construction, real estate, transportation, utility companies, and other industries.

In addition to the five-course surveying/mapping certificate program that prepares students for entry-level employment, Santiago Canyon College also offers an associate degree option. With only two comprehensive surveying programs offered among Southern California community colleges, student enrollment has grown by over 450 percent in the past several years.

Trig Star is sponsored by the Orange County Chapter of the California Land Surveyors Association (CLSA) and is part of a nation-wide competition of the National Society of Professional Surveyors. The event is facilitated by Vital Link of Orange County. Additional sponsors include the California Transportation Foundation, Caltrans, the County of Orange, The Environmental Training Center, Fuscoe Engineering, Inc., Johnson-Frank & Associates, RBF Consulting and the Professional Engineers in Government.

For more information or to register for Trig Star, please contact Vital Link Orange County at (949) 646-2520 or e-mail Bonnie@vitallinkoc.org.

Santiago Canyon College is a public community college, part of Rancho Santiago Community College District. It serves the residents of Anaheim Hills, Orange, Tustin and Villa Park. The college provides education for academic transfer and careers, courses for personal and professional development, and customized training for business and industry.

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