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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Santa Ana College Ranked Eighteenth in Nation in Awarding Associate Degrees to Minority Students

(Santa Ana)— According to *Community College Week*, a national publication for two-year college professionals, Santa Ana College ranks 18th among the top 100 associate degree producers for “total minority” students in the nation. The 95-year-old college is one of six California community colleges in the top twenty nationwide in this category and the only Orange County community college among the top-ranking performers.

In addition, Santa Ana College ranks 22nd among the top 100 associate degree producers for Hispanic and Asian American students in the nation. In fall 2009, the college’s enrollment demographics included one percent American Indian, two percent African-American, 13 percent Asian, 53 percent Latino, 19 percent Caucasian, two percent Filipino, two percent other, and eight percent declined to state.

The publication’s June 14 issue ranked two-year colleges based on degrees conferred during the 2008-2009 academic year. The report is based on data compiled by the National Center for Education Statistics Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Set completions survey.

During the 2008-2009 academic year, Santa Ana College conferred a total of 1,294 associate degrees. In addition, 524 SAC students earned vocational certificates in the same year and 1,791 Santa Ana College students transferred to baccalaureate-granting institutions. This past year, 27 Middle College High School seniors graduated with both a high school diploma and an associate degree from Santa Ana College.

“Even as community colleges face unprecedented budget cuts, Santa Ana College continues to think about how we can maximize our academic offerings to ensure we are helping our students meet their goals. These rankings help prove that we are heading in the right direction,” said Erlinda J. Martinez, Ed.D., president, Santa Ana College.

In fall 2009, the college’s total enrollment, including credit and non-credit programs, was 34,881.

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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