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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Four Rancho Santiago Community College District Child Development Centers Earn National NAEYC Reaccreditation**

(Santa Ana)— Four Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) Child Development Centers have earned reaccreditation from the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). NAEYC is the nation’s leading organization for early childhood professionals. The centers are located at Santa Ana College, Centennial Education Center, Santiago Canyon College, and Orange Education Center. The district’s fifth center that opened in 2009, the Santa Ana College East Campus, is not eligible for accreditation yet.

“For many years, RSCCD has believed our child development programs to be of the highest quality,” said RSCCD Director of Child Development Services Dee Tucker.

“Reaccreditation by NAEYC lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning opportunities possible.”

In the 23 years since NAEYC Accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. Almost 8,000 programs, serving one million young children, are currently accredited by NAEYC—approximately 8 percent of all preschools and other early childhood programs.

“The NAEYC Accreditation system raises the bar for preschools, child care centers and early childhood programs,” said Mark Ginsberg, Ph.D., executive director of NAEYC. “Rancho Santiago Community College District Child Development Centers’ reaccreditation by NAEYC is a sign that they are a leader in a national effort to invest in high-quality early childhood education, and to help give all children a better start.”

According to the National Association for the Education of Young Children, increased investments in early childhood education programs produce significant payoffs for the success of school graduation rates, lower rates of juvenile crime and teen pregnancy, and fewer children in special education and remedial education programs.

“To earn NAEYC reaccreditation, our centers went through an extensive self-study

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process measuring our program and its services against the ten NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related accreditation criteria. Reaccreditation endorses the quality aspects of our programs and helps us focus on areas that can be improved upon,” said Tucker. “The process reviewed all components of children’s programs including curriculum, environment, and interaction and training of adults.”

All RSCCD Child Development Center teachers are required to attain a Child Development permit that authorizes the teaching of young children. All teachers are trained and experienced in childhood educational programs through in-service, college classes and/or professional organizations. Many possess their bachelor’s or master’s degrees in Early Childhood Education.

Founded in 1970, RSCCD Child Development Centers operate a total of five centers. Each center supports and promotes the district’s commitment to student success by providing access to vital, comprehensive, and quality early childhood education programs and services, which reflect and address the needs of a diverse community. The four long-standing centers also have earned Five Star Quality Ratings through the Orange County United Way.

The centers provide:

- Lab schools for college students studying human development and nursing.
- Care, education, and nurturing for more than 1,150 youngsters from six months to five-years-old.
- Free and low-cost services for families that qualify.
- Counseling services, parenting education, and one-on-one referrals to health and social services through the district’s federal Early Head Start Program.
- Support to families living in Anaheim Hills, Garden Grove, Irvine, Orange, Santa Ana, Tustin and Villa Park.
- Play with purpose as the primary vehicle for instruction.

For more information about the Rancho Santiago Community College District Child Development Centers, call (714) 480-7546 or visit [www.rsccd.edu](http://www.rsccd.edu).

**About 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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