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July 8, 2010  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **New Student Trustee Arrives on Rancho Santiago Community College District Board**

(Santa Ana)—Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) has appointed 19-year-old Nathan Selvidge to serve as the student representative on its Board of Trustees.

Selvidge, a second-year philosophy major at Santiago Canyon College (SCC) with a 3.4 GPA, has his sights set on law school. He has served as a director in the SCC Associated Student Government (ASG) since fall 2009. As director of public relations for the ASG, he helped facilitate better student advocacy strategies and worked to build better relationships with faculty and student leadership. His future plans include transferring to a four-year university, hopefully UCLA, and studying law with the goal of practicing criminal law.

After his parents' divorce when he was in middle school, his grades took a nosedive. By the time he was in high school, he thought there was nothing he could do to improve his future outlook.

"After my graduation from Villa Park High, my grandpa sat me down and told me to get serious," says Selvidge. "I love community college because it is affordable and it gave me a chance to start with a clean slate."

After enrolling at SCC, he saw getting involved with ASG as a chance to know more people and do something for the campus. He is most proud of his advocacy for a resolution for creating a dedicated smoking area in the college's parking lot. SCC has a smoke-free campus with designated smoking areas in perimeter parking lots only. He also assisted in orchestrating a successful student rally held to oppose any student enrollment fee increases. He sees serving as student trustee as an extension of the work he has already done.

"The position of student trustee has lots of possibilities that can benefit students," Selvidge says. "I want to be part of anything that advocates for students. My goal is to build strong relationships with the board members and student leaders."

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As the designated student trustee, he will sit on the dais with the RSCCD Board of Trustees at every meeting. Although he is not a voting member of the board, he will have the opportunity to weigh in on decisions and bring student issues to the forefront. If the students oppose a board decision, the student trustee can let the board know.

One month into his tenure as student trustee, he is researching how best to serve his fellow students. He says that he plans to establish open and consistent communication with the student body presidents at Santa Ana and Santiago Canyon colleges. Among the most important issues are adequate library hours, recycling, and keeping student enrollment fees at \$26 a unit.

“I am looking forward to doing something positive and long-lasting to benefit students,” says Selvidge.

He says he has already learned a lot about politics in action and hopes to learn more as he gets more involved in board activities. In August, he will attend a statewide student trustee training session to be held in Newport Beach.

He lives in Santa Ana with his mother Charlotte and his 11-year-old brother James.

**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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