



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Fall Classes Begin August 22 at Santa Ana and Santiago Canyon Colleges *State Cutbacks Impact Local College Students***

(Santa Ana)—Andrew Hanson, a 22-year-old Garden Grove resident and second-year political science major at Santa Ana College, is excited about getting back to classes on Monday. As a veteran with priority registration, he hasn't struggled as much as his fellow students to get the classes he needs, but as Rancho Santiago Community College District's student trustee he feels the anxiety of the district's students.

"Students are ready to learn, but the threat of rising tuition and the lack of available classes is an added burden," said Hanson.

Hanson is one of an increasing number of students, who are heading back to college this fall at either Santiago Canyon College (SCC) or Santa Ana College (SAC). SCC's 2011 fall semester enrollment is up by 5.4 percent over last fall. So far, SCC has enrolled 8,235 students for fall classes. The upward trend in enrollment is echoed at SAC where enrollment is up 2.7 percent this fall and 16,135 students are expected for fall classes.

"As economic challenges continue, more and more people are turning to community colleges to provide the training and skills that will make them more employable," said Erlinda J. Martinez, Ed.D., Santa Ana College president. "Unfortunately, state budget cuts are making accessing those vital classes more and more difficult."

This growth in enrollment comes as colleges statewide are being squeezed by state budget cuts. Rancho Santiago Community College District, SCC and SAC's parent district and the third largest community college district statewide, has had to absorb \$11.2 million in budgetary cuts this year and more are anticipated. These reductions have led to decreasing the number of fall class sections—15 fewer class sections at SCC and 7.5 percent fewer class sections at SAC—and increasing the number of students in the remaining classes.

The strength of the enrollments, despite the reduction in class sections, means college officials have emphasized increased efficiency of the classes that are offered, according to SCC

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President Juan Vázquez. “Our classes are filled to 96 percent of capacity, which means we are doing our best to provide the classes that our students need,” Vázquez said.

Officials at both colleges offer the following recommendations to students seeking to enroll at area community colleges:

- Be flexible on class choice or time.
- Consult with a counselor to ensure that the classes selected support academic goals.
- Complete the classes that they enroll in.
- Increase the number of units enrolled in as it will raise a student’s registration priority the following semester.

Fall instruction begins August 22 and runs through December 11 at SAC and SCC. The fall enrollment fee has increased to \$36 per unit. Fall class schedules are available online at [www.sac.edu](http://www.sac.edu) and [www.sccollege.edu](http://www.sccollege.edu). For specific registration hours, contact SAC at (714) 564-6005 or [www.sac.edu](http://www.sac.edu) or SCC at (714) 628-4901 or [www.sccollege.edu](http://www.sccollege.edu).

New students may submit an application to either college to receive a registration appointment. Students enrolling in English and math classes may be required to take a placement test. For further details on English or math placement tests, call (714) 564-6147 at SAC and (714) 628-4818 at SCC.

Continuing education classes are offered at over 100 locations throughout the district. For further details, call the Centennial Education Center at (714) 241-5700 or the Orange Education Center at (714) 628-5900. Fall continuing education classes, which are offered with an open entry/open exit format and are free-of-charge to the community, begin on August 29. Class offerings include English as a Second Language (ESL), short-term vocational training, adult basic education, GED preparation, and more.

**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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