



Contact: Judy Iannaccone
Director, Communications

Phone: (714) 480-7503

e-mail: iannaccone_judy@rsccd.edu

July 5, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rancho Santiago Community College District Appoints Student Trustee

(Santa Ana)—Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) has appointed 22-year-old Garden Grove resident Andrew Hanson to serve as the student representative on its Board of Trustees.

Hanson, a second-year political science major at Santa Ana College (SAC) with a 3.81 GPA, is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. He was stationed at Camp Pendleton and served two deployments between 2006 and 2010. One deployment was to Iraq and the other was with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which traveled from California to Africa and back stopping at various locations.

A native of Chicago, Hanson was raised by his single mother Carol. Despite her best efforts, he says he “got in trouble in high school” and thanks to the encouragement of a police officer in his neighborhood, he knew he needed to get out of the environment he was in. Hanson knew the officer was right. So, he moved to Arizona where he lived with his cousin Amie and got his GED.

“When I joined the Marine Corps, I got my head on straight,” says Hanson. “I had a thing for the Marine Corps; it’s what I wanted to do. It changed my outlook and my maturity level.”

When he finished his tour of duty, attending SAC was a natural because his wife Melvis went there and he knew the area. And from the beginning, he applied himself wholeheartedly to his studies and to student life.

“I have a different outlook from most students,” he said. “I talked to the right people and got involved in student clubs and student government. It kept me focused.”

With the SAC Associated Student Government (ASG), he served as Chief Justice Pro-tempore of the Supreme Court. He is a member of Alpha Gamma Sigma, the California Community College Scholastic Honor Society, and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the largest honor society in American higher education serving two-year and community college students.

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Additionally, he served as the Alpha Gamma Sigma representative on the Inter-Club Council and as the Phi Theta Kappa secretary. He was also a member of the Student Success, the Elections, and the Adopt-a-Family committees.

“I plan to establish open and consistent communication with the student body presidents at Santa Ana and Santiago Canyon colleges,” said Hanson. “As a strong advocate for the student body, I will ensure that their voices are heard.”

In an effort to pinpoint those issues of greatest interest to students, Hanson has already distributed a survey to both colleges’ students. Among the most important issues are rising enrollment fees, availability of classes, student success, and educational planning.

“Educational planning and constantly revisiting those plans is key to graduating or transferring in two years,” said Hanson. “It’s important that we tweak the system to ensure that students are moving ahead toward academic goals.”

His future plans include transferring to a four-year university, preferably UC Berkeley or UCLA, and studying political science. After completing his bachelor’s degree, he hopes to attend law school. He has his sights on continued community and national service, establishing a law practice, and possibly running for elected office.

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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