



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Santa Ana College Hosts Financial Aid and Earned Income Tax Credit Day for Students, Parents, and Community Residents ***February 23 Event Features Free Income Tax and FAFSA Filing Services***

(Santa Ana)—Two deadlines loom ahead that put fear into the hearts of many area residents.

The first deadline is **March 2**—the initial Cal Grant deadline for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), an application required annually by the U.S. and state government for application to any federal financial aid program. The second deadline is **April 18**—this year’s extended deadline for filing personal income tax returns.

To ease the pain, Santa Ana College (SAC) in collaboration with Orange County United Way and the Legal Aid Society of Orange County are planning an event that can help many families find money that they may not know they qualify for.

This Financial Aid and Earned Income Tax Credit Day will be held on Wednesday, February 23 from 8:00 a.m. to noon and from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Cesar Chavez Building located on the Santa Ana College campus, 1530 W. 17th St., Santa Ana, CA 92706. Parking will be available in Lot 6.

To help current and prospective students get the money they need to attend college, FAFSA filing assistance will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Students and parents should bring the following items:

- 2010 W-2(s) if employed in 2010 (both parents and students)
- 2010 federal tax return(s) if required to file a tax return (both students and parents)
- Their federal student aid Personal Identification Number (PIN) which serves as an electronic signature on the FAFSA. (To obtain a PIN, go to www.pin.ed.gov .)

Experts from the SAC financial aid office will be on hand to offer free one-on-one assistance with the FAFSA.

At the same event, free income tax filing and preparation services will be available.

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Volunteer IRS-certified income tax processors provided by the Legal Aid Society and Orange County United Way will help individuals find out if they qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) of up to \$5,666. The EITC is a refundable federal income tax credit for low to moderate income working individuals and families that earn less than \$48,362.

For help in preparing 2011 federal and state income tax returns, participants are asked to bring the following:

- Social Security card or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for each family member
- W-2 forms for all jobs worked in 2010
- All 1099 forms with additional income
- All 1098-E and 1098-T forms for educational expenses
- Childcare provider information: name, address and Tax ID Number (if available)
- A copy of 2009 tax returns
- A picture ID

To qualify for the EITC, community members must be U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, have a valid Social Security number, have earned income in 2010, earned less than \$48,362. Eligibility also depends on marital status, household income and the number of dependents.

To schedule an appointment for free tax return preparation and to see if you qualify for the EITC, please call 888-434-8248. Walk-ins (without an appointment) will be taken care of on a first-come, first-served basis.

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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