

A watercolor illustration of a feather, rendered in shades of teal, green, and brown, with a soft, painterly texture. The feather is positioned vertically in the center of the page. Above the feather, there are several light-colored, splattered paint marks in shades of pink and orange, creating a sense of movement and energy.

Together
WE SOAR!

SANTA ANA COLLEGE

F O U N D A T I O N
2 0 1 5 • 2 0 1 6

THE UNSHAKABLE SPIRIT OF SANTA ANA COLLEGE

The Santa Ana College Foundation funds programs and scholarships that allow our students to start and continue pursuing their academic goals. We lessen their financial worries and increase their chances for success. But we don't do it alone.

Corporate Partners. Alumni. Professors. Counselors. Donors. Parents. Community. Together, we finance more than tuition and textbooks. We add value to the world by producing well-prepared graduates who are ready to contribute to the workforce.

Together, we look to SAC's proud past for inspiration to set the stage for the next generation of achievers.

Together, we nurture our scholars by offering them shoulders to lean on, ears to bend, and open hearts that care about their biggest fears, wildest dreams and boundless futures.

Together, we encourage our students to embrace the unimaginable. We dare them to do more and be more than they ever thought possible.

Together, WE SOAR!

TRANSFORMING LIVES

*Shattering
Stereotypes*

CELEBRATED PAST

Rich Legacy

BOUNDLESS FUTURE

Inspiring Hope

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PAGING DR. MORALES

Undeterred by her undocumented status and other challenges, Class of 2006 Nursing Alumna, Blanca Morales, reflects on the life-changing lessons she learned at SAC and how they readied her for Harvard.

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THE MVP

SAC Athletic Hall of Famer Bruce Gelker graduated in 1941, but his deep affection for SAC, its football program, and the bonds he formed here, have endured. Today, along with his wife, Lisa, Bruce is championing SAC's boundless future.

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GRACIAS, MADAM PRESIDENT

After more than a decade of shepherding SAC's growth and development and preparing our students to compete and win in the global workforce, outgoing President, Dr. Erlinda J. Martinez, talks legacy-leaving and what's next on her life's syllabus.

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CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES

Oh, Happy Year! During our 2015-2016 term, thousands of students, alumni, faculty, and members of our extended family gathered to commemorate SAC's 100th Birthday. Starting with our "Pave the Way" campaign, walk with us, as we review the moments of our Celebrated Past and Boundless Future

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THE PHOENIX

In the face of a discouraging childhood, domestic abuse and homelessness, 2013 Sociology Alumna, Toni Delgado, rose to her trials and became what she never thought she could: a success

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A snapshot of our financials, including contributions, assets and awarded scholarships.

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HONOR ROLL: 2014-2016 DONORS

"We rise by lifting others" – Robert Ingersoll

Thanks to the generosity of caring people and generous organizations, the Santa Ana College Foundation can fund the bright and bold educational visions of deserving SAC students.



Dazing
DR. MORALES

“SAC is the perfect springboard. You’re going to find yourself.”

Determined to be undeterred by her many challenges including finances, self-doubt and her undocumented immigration status, Class of 2006 alumna, Blanca Morales, reflects on the life-changing lessons she learned at SAC and how they readied her for Harvard.

Blanca Morales didn’t always believe she had the talent to become a physician, let alone get accepted into a prestigious institution like Harvard. Although her parents, who fled their impoverished economic conditions in Mexico when Blanca was only 5 years old, always stressed the importance of education, for Blanca, the daily reminder of being undocumented kept her from dreaming too big about what her future could be.

“I knew I was undocumented very early on,” says Blanca. “It was tough for me to stay under the radar, be a normal student and try to do well in my classes. I was in constant fear that something would happen to us.”

Fear about finances would also trouble Blanca throughout her upbringing. For years, her father was the sole bread winner, working labor-intensive jobs to keep the family afloat. Eventually, her mother took a job harvesting strawberries. “My parents would always say, ‘If you want to be like us, working nonstop, not being able to really afford things beyond our basic necessities, then don’t go to school.’ It was a lesson I picked up fast,” says Blanca.

The lesson stuck. After picking up her valedictorian-labeled diploma at Santa Ana High School, Blanca enrolled at Santa Ana College. Unlike many of her friends who had to secure jobs to help support their families, Blanca’s parents allowed her to focus only on her education. Money was tight and her parents helped as much as they could, but to fill in the gaps, Blanca sought out scholarships. “I was one of those students that applied every year for whatever I could,” recalls Blanca.

At SAC, Blanca also found people who were willing to invest in her potential. “My first day, I met Rochelle Zook, one of SAC’s counselors. She looked at my transcripts and said, ‘Where do you want to go after this? What do you want to do with your life?’”

Intrigued by the sciences, Blanca told Zook she wanted to become a nurse. But after taking a core concepts class, Blanca began to second-guess her choice. “I wanted to know more,” recalls Blanca. “It became clear to me that, in order to make a big impact, I needed to pursue medicine.”

So, with the support of Ms. Zook and others, Blanca spent an additional two years at SAC taking pre-med classes. In 2006, the Radillo Scholarship recipient strolled across the commencement stage, not as a shy and unsure student, but as a confident, second-time-valedictorian. “SAC made me see that my hardship with my undocumented status wasn’t that bad. They made me more comfortable in my own skin,” says Blanca.

After SAC, Blanca transferred to the University of California, Irvine, where she studied biology. “I felt that I was just as prepared as students who had been at the university starting from their freshman year.”

After graduating with honors, Blanca kept a presence at UCI, joining its Health Scholars Program, which aims to improve healthcare in underserved communities. There, she also became Co-Creator of the Health Scholars Weight Management Groups at the UCI Family Health Center.

Fast forward to this fall, because of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, Blanca will continue to honor her SAC beginnings, putting the confidence she gained to work at one of the most competitive universities in the world, Harvard Medical School. “I want to do family medicine or internal medicine,” says Blanca. “I want to see patients regularly, especially ones that are dealing with chronic illnesses like diabetes and hypertension, the major players that have huge mortality rates.”

When asked to describe her experience at SAC in one word, Blanca quickly says, “transforming.” It gave her the time she needed to blossom. “There’s nothing that you’re going to lose out on by attending a community college first,” she says. “SAC is the perfect springboard. You’re going to find yourself.”

Although her undocumented status remains a hurdle she has to overcome, Blanca’s still pushing forward, putting her goal of becoming Dr. Morales at the top of her priority list.

We have no doubt that she will make it happen.
#Determined #DrMorales #SACSuccessStory



THE MVP

THIS YEAR, DURING OUR CENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP CAMPAIGN, BRUCE AND HIS WIFE OF 25 YEARS, LISA, CONTRIBUTED \$100,000 TO HELP STUDENT-ATHLETES SCORE IN THE CLASSROOM.

WORLD WAR II MARINE CORPS RESERVIST. SUCCESSFUL SANTA ANA BUSINESSMAN. YOUNGEST PRESIDENT OF THE ORANGE ROTARY CLUB. Orange, California native, Bruce Gelker has earned many monikers during his lifetime, but there's only one he puts on a pedestal: Proud Santa Ana College Alumnae.

Back when Bruce Gelker (Class of '42) was an athlete at Santa Ana College, he was what we call a triple threat, playing baseball, basketball and football. A natural athlete, Bruce loved all three sports, but says football and then SAC head football coach, Bill Cook, was what made SAC a winner in his eyes. "Bill Cook had a great personality," he muses fondly. "He was available to everyone on the team and he played no favorites. That generated esprit de core. He really cared about his players, and he coached us to be a winning team."

And win Bruce and his teammates did. Under Cook's leadership, Bruce flourished, playing a central role in helping the Dons achieve an impressive record of 20-1 during his two seasons with the team. "Both seasons, freshman and sophomore years, we were winning and that was exciting and fulfilling," recalls Bruce of his tackling days. More sports accolades would follow, including two national championships in 1941 and 1942, as well as All-Eastern Division Junior College Football team and All-Southern California Football team recognition.

Quick to point out that football had his heart, Bruce also hit it out of the park on the mound at SAC. In fact, he was so good, the major leagues came calling in the form of the St. Louis Cardinals, offering him a first baseman contract.

After SAC, with the support of Cook, Gelker was recruited by the University of Southern California on a baseball-football scholarship. "He sent three of us up to USC and we hardly had time to pack. That's what being an athlete is all about, being ready to compete to win, no matter the circumstances. That's the end game."

After college, Bruce found success off the field, in business, founding the place to dine and unwind in Santa Ana back in 1964, the Saddleback Inn. Entertaining the likes of celebrities and would-be world leaders, including Roy Rogers, Gene Autry and former President Ronald Reagan, the Inn spawned sister sites in Laguna Beach, Norwalk, Lake Arrowhead and Phoenix, Arizona.

Now 92 years old, Bruce says he had many special moments and met a number of special people at SAC. "I had two or three teachers that I think of with great affection because they were not only good teachers, they were good friends. We had a spirit at Santa Ana that was unique and I enjoyed every minute of it." Relationships and respect for where his educational roots began is the reason why today, he's a proud SAC donor. This year, during our Centennial Scholarship Campaign, Bruce and his wife of 25 years, Lisa, contributed \$100,000 to help student-athletes score in the classroom.

"MY FIRST LOVE WAS SANTA ANA COLLEGE AND THAT'S ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS I WANT TO GIVE BACK. It wouldn't hurt if the football program had a flashback to 1941. I want the football program to succeed like we did in the Bill Cook era."





Gracias,

MADAM PRESIDENT

Dr. Erlinda J. Martinez spent 11 years passionately pushing for ground-breaking programs and projects to cement Santa Ana College's rightful place in the future. As she closes the book on her tenure, Dr. Martinez stopped to smell the roses and reminisced about the students who touched her heart, what's next, and why she believes the SAC staff is her legacy.

While her official title was President of Santa Ana College, since 2005, Dr. Erlinda J. Martinez has been more like a proud parent. Like all selfless and loving parents, Dr. Martinez worked long days and nights to ensure her children – the thousands of students who call Santa Ana College home – were nurtured and given everything they needed to prosper once they leave the nest.

Throughout her decades-long higher education career, which began at Compton College, Dr. Martinez has been honored with many awards and titles. In 2016 alone, the Hispanic Education Endowment Fund crowned her a “Visionary Leader,” while California Assemblyman Tom Daly and the California State Assembly named her “Woman of the Year.”

While all impressive and well-deserved, none of Dr. Martinez’s illustrious titles seem to make her prouder than the one of servant. “I come from a background of student services, so my focus has always been, ‘what can I do for students?’” She saw her job quite simply: to create opportunities for students to shine. “The adage, if you’re not on the frontline, in the classroom, or at the counter, your job is to help the people that are. All I’ve tried to do is provide service to students and to have their experience at the college be the best that it can be.”

Without question, Dr. Martinez accomplished that mission and then some. Since taking the helm as SAC’s president, the campus and its curriculum underwent a dramatic transformation. “I’ve always felt like the student’s experience starts when they come in the front door. That means everything, from the maintenance of the parking lot to greeting students, to really focusing on how we deliver instruction,” says Dr. Martinez.

Thanks to Dr. Martinez, through the passage of two bond measures totaling more than 500 million dollars since 2002, SAC now has a slew of new experiences to enjoy, including a Digital Media Center and Early

Childhood Education Center, an Exercise Science Complex and a 53,000 square foot Orange County Sheriff’s Regional Training Academy, as well as a 16-room, 24,000 square foot instructional facility, new soccer field, softball field, concession stand and dugout, as well as a maintenance and operations building, among many other facilities and programs.

“I’m so grateful for the time and willingness of staff to stick with me on things we were trying to get done, their loyalty to the task, not based on me as a president, but on the goals we were trying to achieve (as a community),” adds Dr. Martinez.

Although immensely proud of the physical fruits that her labor produced, Dr. Martinez says the most memorable part of her job has been the things that can’t be seen with the naked eye: the struggles and triumphs of the students she’s met over the years.

Dr. Martinez recalls one student in particular. “I think of Jenny really struggling as a single mom. I met her because I saw her crying. She had a problem with financial aid. Her check was late and she wasn’t going to be able to get through the weekend.” Getting emotional, Dr. Martinez remembers the day Jenny proudly came through the commencement line. “It was really hard for me because I knew her story. She was crying. I was crying.”

“Every student has a story, a burden. I listen to students who don’t have support. They’re so resilient. I wonder if I would make it through if I had those issues.” Another student that comes to mind is Ray Carrasco, now a professional golfer. “He said SAC changed his life and launched his career. Now he’s giving back to SAC and its students.”

People like Jenny and Ray have made her journey well worth it, says Dr. Martinez.

As she departs for greener pastures (she’s considering mission work with her church), Dr. Martinez urges the community to continue pressing for change at

SAC. “The work hasn’t changed. It’s not over. For this community to experience economic growth, for people to be able to get those higher paying wages, we need to provide the education for that to happen.”

When asked about her legacy, it should come as no surprise that Dr. Martinez believes it’s less about her, and more, make that all, about the people she’s collaborated and connected with over the years. “My job isn’t any more important than anybody else’s. It’s at the top of the organizational chart, I get that, but it’s the people who do the work with students that make the difference. Everybody has to do 110 percent of their job for it to work.”

“My legacy has been in the people that I’ve hired,” she says. “I’ve been able to hire people who studied at SAC. They’re from the neighborhood, and I got to bring them back as tenured track faculty. They will be here long after I’m gone.”

The funny thing about when people leave is when they are as admired and respected as Dr. Martinez, they will never be forgotten. Farewell, Madam President. Thank you and good luck!

“Under the awesome 10-year leadership of Dr. Erlinda Martinez, Santa Ana College has risen to new heights--new academic programs including the first four-year bachelor program, beautiful new facilities and increased enrollment, as well as celebrating the Centennial anniversary with great respect and honor throughout the community.”

David Elliott
President & CEO
Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce

“Dr. Martinez was a friend and mentor to me for nearly 20 years. We shared a passion for equity and student talent development and her unequivocal support for the Santa Ana Partnership made it one of the most respected and enduring collaboratives in the nation.”

Sara Lundquist, Ph.D.
Vice President, Student Services
Santa Ana College

“Dr. Martinez has been an amazing supporter for continuing education. She has advocated for strong programs that promote career preparation and transition to college credit courses. She is a very special person whose legacy will be remembered for the tremendous leadership that she provided for the college over eleven years.”

James Kennedy, Ed.D.
Vice President, Continuing Education
Santa Ana College

“Erlinda’s unwavering support of our Foundation made all the difference in the world. From the beginning, she was at the table, making the asks, and building our team so that more scholarships and funds could come to the college. Those contributions are priceless.”

Ken Purcell
President
Santa Ana College Foundation
Board of Directors





Celebrate

GOOD TIMES

THROUGHOUT ITS STORIED HISTORY, Santa Ana College has gained a reputation for being a place of promise, possibility and pride; a place where students awaken their academic dreams and embark on exciting paths destined for bold futures.

SAC is where scholars shatter stereotypes, exceed expectations, transform themselves and the world around them. SAC is, and will always be, a celebration of culture, connection and commitment to succeed at all costs.

During the 2015-2016 academic year, SAC commemorated not 10, not 50, but 100 years of good times. The celebrations kicked off with a Blue Ribbon ceremony and culminated with our 100th Commencement, where each graduate donned a keepsake Centennial medallion.

SAC hosted over 6,000 people who had a blast watching the spectacular fireworks display at our Birthday Party in September 2015 and welcomed over 3,000 prospective and former students to our Open House in March 2016. It was a grand community affair with neighbors, alumni, local government, business and education leaders.

Attendees included long-time Santa Ana Mayor Miguel Pulido, Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce President and CEO David Elliott, and Dr. Al Mijeras, Superintendent of Schools for the Orange County Department of Education, along with corporate friends, such as Union Bank and Disneyland Resort, as well as proud alumni, like former Santa Ana College football champion, Santa Ana businessman and SAC donor, Bruce Gelker.

Together, we laughed, danced to music representing the rich diversity of our student body, and shed tears of joy for the many milestones that SAC has and has yet to accomplish. But most of all, we told wonderful stories about what we've achieved together for our legacy, our community and, most of all, for our students. We are so grateful for everyone who joined us on our journey to revisit SAC's Celebrated Past and envision our Boundless Future.

Good times were had by all, and we would like to extend 100 thanks to each and every person who celebrated with us. Because of you, for the next 100 years, Santa Ana College will continue to soar.

Our work goes on and we invite donors and friends to "Pave the Way" for SAC's future through our Brick Campaign and Centennial Scholarship Campaign. These opportunities continue to open the door for more determined and deserving students to receive a quality education.

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The
PHOENIX

They say necessity is the mother of invention. In Toni Delgado's case, make that reinvention. After years of suffering in a toxic relationship, barely getting by on government assistance, and struggling as a single mom of four, this 2013 Sociology alum turned her life around.

AND I'LL RISE UP, RISE LIKE THE DAY
I'LL RISE UP, I'LL RISE UNAFRAID
I'LL RISE UP, AND I'LL DO IT A
THOUSAND TIMES AGAIN.

- "Rise Up" by Andra Day

There was a time when Toni Delgado couldn't see herself flying high. Her childhood was tough and plagued by physical, mental and emotional abuse. Her mother was addicted to drugs. As an adult, Toni's cycle of abuse continued when she became involved in a destructive marriage. "I lost sight of who I was and what I was really worth," Toni noted on her 2012-13 Santa Ana College scholarship application. Eventually, her husband was deported to Mexico. While the wounds Toni suffered on the outside gradually healed, she was left to deal with painful internal scars.

Things got worse from there. Although now free from her abusive husband, Toni found herself living on the streets, along with her then three children. Although difficult, she allowed her former in-laws to take them in until she figured things out. She was destitute and alone. Toni's enough-is-enough moment came when she became pregnant while homeless. Ready to get her life together, Toni applied for and was accepted into Casa Teresa, a maternity shelter for homeless women in Orange. "I entered with a real bad attitude, not trusting anyone, not thinking I was worthy of anything," says Toni.

Over time, Toni grew to put faith in the shelter staff and began to rise from the ashes of her past. At the urging of a counselor, Toni took a pre-test for her GED. She passed. Soon after, she got her GED. The accomplishment reignited her self-esteem and sparked her interest in education again. After a brief stint at Golden West College and graduating from the Casa Teresa program, Toni transferred to Santa Ana College. "I remember I was scared. I didn't know what to expect, what to do." But once on campus, she felt safe. "I was embraced with so much love from the counselors."

She enrolled in the nursing program, but later decided to switch to sociology. "The decision to become a social worker was a natural one. I felt with my own life experiences, I could relate to other people in need," says Toni.

Despite being committed to her new path, at times, the road was rocky. Toni struggled to pay for tuition and books and worried even more about affording basic necessities for her family. Enter Allan and Sandy Fainburg, SAC donors who granted her a scholarship. "They were really sweet to me," she recalls about meeting the Fainburgs for the first time.

With the Fainburgs' aid, Toni was able to graduate from SAC and transfer to Cal State Fullerton to earn her bachelor's degree.

"They didn't give up on me, especially Ann Lockhart," shares Toni about the counselors at SAC. "If you would have asked me in the past if I thought I was capable, if I thought I was smart enough, I would have absolutely said no."

Today, Toni has ascended to the level of case manager at Casa Teresa, the place that reminded her that she was special and led her to SAC, where her self-esteem soared.

"SAC DIDN'T GIVE UP ON ME.
Thank You FOR BEING THE
BEST CHEERLEADER
ALONG MY *Educational*
Journey."



TOTAL GIFTS

\$1.11
MILLION

2016-17

SAVE THE DATE

OVER RAISED THROUGH CORPORATE/
PRIVATE FOUNDATION PROGRAM
GRANTS
\$400,000

TOTAL ASSETS:
\$9.95
MILLION

September • 22 • 2016
President's Circle Event

May • 8 • 2017
Ed Arnold Golf Classic

TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

NEARLY \$400,000 TO

735
STUDENTS

May • 26 • 2017
Annual Scholarship
Awards Ceremony

June • 8 • 2017
Alumni Hall of Fame
Induction Ceremony

OVER
\$550,000

TOTAL PROGRAM
FUNDING

Donors

2014 • 2016

THIS HONOR ROLL REFLECTS donations for both the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 fiscal years.

On behalf of all 30,000 of our students, thank you for your generous support! We can never repay you, but we will forever aim to make you proud.

Over \$1,000,000

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\$250,000-\$999,999

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\$100,000-\$249,999

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