

ACADEMIC SENATE  
SANTA ANA COLLEGE

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**Resolution:** F04.01  
Dr. Rita Cepeda

**Passed:** October 5, 2004

**Date:** September 7, 2004  
**Subject:** Dr. Rita Cepeda  
**Mover:** Reina Sanabria  
**Seconder:** Rochelle Zook

**Whereas,** Dr. Rita Cepeda faithfully served as President of Santa Ana College for five years from 1999-2004;

**Whereas,** SAC flourished under the leadership of Rita Cepeda, who is the first Latina in the 85-year history of the college to assume the role of President;

**Whereas,** as an educational teacher for the state and the local community, she championed for student rights specifically in the area of community college funding and access for undocumented students;

**Whereas,** she created a collegial working environment, encouraging and supporting faculty participation in the planning process;

**Whereas,** she supported faculty lead initiatives such as Freshman Experience, Center for Teacher Education, MESA, Puente, SSTI, U-Link, University Transfer Center, Honors Transfer Program which have acclaimed national and statewide recognition as exemplary programs;

**Whereas,** she was instrumental in the development of the SAC Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Program, lent great support for the opening of the Neighborhood Technology Center, and helped rally students and the community to successfully pass Measure E;

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***Whereas,*** during her term she earned her Doctorate of Education from USC, proudly awarded her daughter Mariel, an Associate's Degree from Santa Ana College, was listed as one of the "Twenty-five Most Influential People of Orange County", was selected for the O.C. Mexican American Opportunity Foundation 2001 Community Leadership Award, received the 2004 ACCA Mertes Award for Excellence in Community College Research, received the American Red Cross Clara Barton Award for her commitment to encourage and provide leadership in the field of education, was awarded a YWCA Woman of Achievement Silver Medallion for her inspiration and lasting contributions, received a Woman of Vision Award by the We Give Thanks Foundation, and was honored as an Hispanic Influential in Education by the O.C. United Way for her outstanding achievements and contributions to the local Latino community;

***Whereas,*** she has served and has been appointed to several key boards including the American Association of Community College; The College Board; Board of Directors of the American Red Cross, Orange County Chapter; Orange County United Way Latino Advisory Cabinet; Santa Ana's Workforce Investment Board; the State Youth Council, and the Delhi Center Future Search Planning Committee. President Cepeda is also a member of Kiwanis International, the Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce and serves as a member of the California Advisory Committee to the College Board;

***Whereas,*** her work in Santa Ana has left an indelible mark on this community;

***Be it resolved as follows:*** The Academic Senate of Santa Ana College recognizes Dr. Rita Cepeda for her outstanding service to the students, faculty, staff, and educational community of Santa Ana College.