SANTA ANA COLLEGE
Annual Classified

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

2014
Dear Staff & Colleagues,

It is the Classified employees like yourself that keep this campus buoyant in these economic tidal waves. Most often you are the first image of Santa Ana College and it is your pride, care and hope that leave a lasting impression on all that visit our campus. You demonstrate true dedication, commitment and genuine hard work by giving your very best every day.

As we look forward to our Centennial Celebration, we are reminded of the important link classified staff are to our legacy. Your unconditional support for one another, our students, and the college is truly inspiring. I am appreciative of your efforts that create the welcoming atmosphere our campus is known for, and that provides our students with a passion to succeed and learn.

All of you deserve to be recognized and I am honored to join in the chorus of praise as we celebrate and recognize individuals that have been nominated by YOU and the Awards Committee. Please know that I am grateful for the work you do and pledge my continued support.

As ever,

Erlinda J. Martinez, Ed.D.
President

An ongoing commitment to student success

Dear Colleagues,

Community colleges, like other institutions of higher education, are all about learning. What we have come to understand in recent years is that not all learning takes place in the classroom. In fact, some of the most important learning during the college years occurs outside of the classroom. Further, when students recount the people who assisted them in reaching their goals, one would expect most students to name a faculty member. That is often the case, but it is not always the case. I can recall many examples of when students cited classified staff members as being key contributors to their success. It may have been a particular person in the career center, or a learning aide in a math tutoring center, or even a custodian. A pivotal point for a student may come about by their involvement in student activities and the guidance provided by the classified advisor. It may come about from sitting on a committee and interacting with a variety of staff members or it may be as simple as receiving encouragement from a clerk or an administrative assistant or some other staff member at a time when a student needs some encouragement and support. There are countless ways that classified staff members contribute to the learning and progress of our students.

Although all classified employees deserve appreciation and recognition for their contributions, I especially want to salute the classified employees of Santa Ana College that have been selected by their peers and singled out for an Award for Excellence. Your hard work and your tireless efforts on behalf of our students are an inspiration to us all. Thank you for all you do to encourage the success of our students!

Respectfully,

Raúl Rodríguez, Ph.D.
Chancellor

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As ever,

Erlinda J. Martinez, Ed.D.
President
Classified Employee
of the Year 2014 Recipient

Leisa Schumacher
Administrative Secretary
Science, Math & Health Science Department

Congratulations to Leisa Schumacher as this year’s recipient of the Classified Employee of the Year 2014 Award!

Leisa has been employed with the Rancho Santiago Community College District for a remarkable eleven years. In her position as Administrative Secretary for the Science, Math & Health Science Department, Leisa promotes collegiality to achieve common practices through her collaboration with all levels of staff, faculty, and management. She is well known for her high ability to learn and adapt to and use new systems such as Ad Astra and the many facets of Datatel. Leisa is also committed to meeting the needs of students as is exemplified by her dedication to helping students identify the many tools and resources they have available on campus. Additionally, Leisa participates in the Curriculum and Scheduling Prioritization Team meetings and makes recommendations on operational and procedural concerns regarding our systems.

Leisa is an exceptional employee, whose dedication to students and the institution is best exemplified by her qualities, including her on-task character, high level of integrity, positive attitude, reliability, and honesty. Her philosophy promotes cooperation and mutual respect. Those that know Leisa speak of her knowledge and understanding of the organization, her excellence as a communicator, her tact and diplomacy in handling concerns, and her dedication and pride in all aspects of her job.

A special salute to Leisa for your dedication, commitment, and promoting your work to the highest standards at Santa Ana College!
A warm and special applause to Erin Woodmas as the recipient of the Half-of-the-Time Award. This recognition represents her outstanding full-time efforts and contributions as a part-time employee!

Erin has been with the Rancho Santiago Community College District since 2007. In her part-time position as the General Office Clerk in the Nursing Department, Erin proudly oversees the off-campus office location at St. Joseph’s Hospital where she is the first contact for students, and answers inquiries regarding pre-requisites, program guidelines, and document compliance. Additionally, she is a great support to faculty and administrators where she utilizes her qualities of being concise, professional, and flexible to help create a seamless link between departments and the students. Erin exemplifies this collaboration in putting together and making readily accessible the Nursing Program’s waiting list from the traditional paper form into an Excel spreadsheet and posting the information on Santa Ana College’s Nursing webpage for student to access.

Erin is best known for her positive attitude and her commendable work ethic. She has been described as being full of spark, focused, directed, and motivated, and most of all, dedicated to her role and responsibilities at SAC. She is described as hard-working, dedicated, and very personable. Those who know her speak of her integrity and exemplary interpersonal skills, as well as her friendly and carrying attributes that demonstrate the positive and collegial attitudes embraced by the Nursing Program at Santa Ana College.

Congratulations to Erin for your exemplary full-time support as a part-time employee and for your strong dedication and commitment to serving Santa Ana College!
Bill Brush Colleague Appreciation Award

Elaine Pham
Instructional Center Specialist
Math Study Center

Congratulations to Elaine Pham on her special acknowledgment as this year’s recipient of the Bill Brush Colleague Appreciation Award!

Elaine has been with Rancho Santiago Community College District for five years. She displays her Bill Brush attributes of being dedicated, resourceful, and enthusiastic in creating a safe and inviting atmosphere in the setting where she works. Elaine has assisted with the development of the Math Center at Centennial Education Center and has assisted with the creation of the Math Center at Santa Ana College. Additionally, she has been involved in creating curriculum, facilitating workshops, and guiding peer mentors and tutors in enhancing their student-centered teaching abilities. For example, she has collaborated with colleagues in developing a pre-semester Math preparation program for STEM students, helping increase the size of the drop-in student population, and helping expand workshop services in the Math Center.

Elaine’s genuine interest in promoting collegiality among her peers exemplifies her qualities of sincerity and enthusiasm in role modeling and helping colleagues put their best effort in the work they do and in encouraging them to move forward in their education and careers. Elaine is truly admired and respected by her colleagues. She is best known for her excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and her ability to build rapport and promote an environment of community and home in the Math Center.

Warm congratulations to Elaine for your exceptional job, dedication, resourcefulness, and pride in serving Santa Ana College!
Michael Ediss
Skilled Maintenance Worker
Maintenance & Operations Department

Please put your hands together to congratulate Michael Ediss as this year’s recipient of the Professional Achievement Award!

Michael is a model employee who has been with Rancho Santiago Community College District for seven years. In his position as Skilled Maintenance Worker, Michael helps maintain the campus grounds clean. He has addressed the lack of trash receptacles in parking lots by taking the initiative in strategically planning to procure additional receptacles for easy access. Michael has also been a representative on the facilities committee to have a voice in the future development of the campus. Additionally, Michael has demonstrated an outstanding job performance and commitment to professional growth through education. Pursuing higher education is important in his family. He has exemplified this commitment by being a student during the day and a custodian at night. Michael graduated from Santa Ana College with an Associate’s Degree in Liberal Arts then transferred to Cal State Long Beach where he studied accounting and history.

Michael is a highly driven and focused individual who leads by example and demonstrates integrity in his day-to-day work at Santa Ana College. Those who know him speak of his commitment and dedication in finding new ways and means to save the college money, help us achieve our goal of being more sustainable and doing all he can to promote SAC to students, staff and faculty. Michael is known to be honest, hard-working, and a team player.

Congratulations Michael for your commitment and dedication to your exceptional job performance and professional development!
2014 Classified Awards Finalists

Classified Employee of the Year
Joseph Alonzo
Gilbert Cossio

Half-of-the-Time
(H-O-T-T) Award
Margie Castellanos
Maribel Pineda

Bill Brush Colleague Appreciation Award
Justin McAdam
Leisa Schumacher

Professional Achievement Award
Jimmy Nguyen

2014 Classified Awards Committee

Teresa Mercado-Cota, Co-Chair
Assistant Dean, Student Services

Lithia Williams, Co-Chair
CSEA Representative

2013/2014 Retirees
Gloria Barela
Jean Gonzalez
John Lundgren
Denise Phillips
Hoai Quan

Geni Lusk
Classified Employee of the Year Award Co-Recipient, 2013
Executive Secretary | Administrative Services

Jennifer Valencia
Classified Employee of the Year Award Co-Recipient, 2013
Administrative Secretary | Santa Ana College Foundation | Office of College Advancement

Tonimarie Withey
Bill Brush Colleague Appreciation Award Recipient, 2013
Administrative Secretary | Fine & Performing Arts Division

Anh-Phuong Tran
Professional Achievement Award Recipient, 2013
Support Services Assistant | Academic Affairs

Chris Steward
H-O-T-T (Half-of-the-Time) Award Recipient, 2013
Clerk | Admission and Records
Classified Service Pin Awards 2014

10 Year Recipients
Omar Avalos
Christopher Connally
Stephen Crenshaw
Thao Duong
Arturo Hernandez-Morales
Paul Kohlhas
Anisa Latthitham

Joseph Luarte
Michael Martinez
John Math
Donald Nankivil
Diem Nguyen
Nga Nguyen
Claudia Ojeda

Martin Olivera
Chi Pham
David Phan
Phyllis Steele
Anh-Phoung Tran
Phil Tran
Adalberto Zambrano

15 Year Recipients
Abel Arredondo
Chris Conway
Claudia Cruz
Steven Demeria
Connie Jimenez
Supreme Lim

Maria Linares
Suzanne Lohmann
Claudia Lozada
Velan McMinimy
Christina Orozco
Beatrice Padilla

Deanne Quiggle
Luisa Ruiz
Steve Tiaseca
Sophareth Tuon
Lithia Williams

15 Year Recipients
Victor Aguilar
John Chambers
Teresa Grijalva
Thuy Nguyen
Raydenie Puente
Lillian Reimer
Salvador Sanchez

25 Year Recipients
20 Year Recipients
Nora Schug

35 Year Recipients
30 Year Recipients

Sylvia Gordon

Victor Aguilar
John Chambers
Teresa Grijalva
Thuy Nguyen
Raydenie Puente
Lillian Reimer
Salvador Sanchez

Tai Bahn
Ilene Mai
Yolanda Vasquez

40 Year Recipients

Susana Albuja

Thank you
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A very special appreciation to the Santa Ana College Foundation Board of Directors for their financial support to our Classified & Faculty Awards Program.

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SANTA ANA COLLEGE