



PRESS RELEASE

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George L. Pla, Founder and CEO of Cordoba Corporation, to Keynote at SAC Foundation Scholarship and Awards Ceremony

Santa Ana, CA - While the city of Santa Ana has been one of the hardest-hit communities in Orange County to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, partners of **Santa Ana College** remained devoted to their philanthropy and emerged to support, and donate to, the beloved scholarship program managed by the **SAC Foundation**. Their generous contributions encouraged students to stay the course and continue pursuing their dreams. As a result, for the 2020-2021 annual fundraising period, SAC dispersed \$504,650 in scholarship awards to 303 outstanding students, giving reason to celebrate this year with a special keynote speaker.

The SAC Foundation is thrilled to announce the Founder and CEO of **Cordoba Corporation**, **George L. Pla**, will be the keynote speaker for the Annual Scholarship and Awards Ceremony. The successful entrepreneur, also a graduate from a community college, is a best-selling author and philanthropist who will share insight and inspiration with SAC scholars at this historic, virtual event scheduled for **May 20, 2021, at 4 p.m.**

Pla is known for his start in community redevelopment and expansion into his pivotal role as a philanthropist and leading entrepreneur today. One of his notable civic activities include the planning and engineering efforts of Cordoba Corporation's historic transport of the Space Shuttle Endeavour and ET-94 fuel boosters through the streets of Los Angeles while serving as a member of the Board of Trustees of the California Science Center.

As a staunch supporter of academic institutions, Pla also served as a Regent Emeritus at Loyola Marymount University; a member of Program Advisory Committee for Stanford University's Construction Institute; and as a Presidential Associate at the University of Southern California (USC) where he is the co-founder of USC's Latino Alumni Association. Pla has also served on the California Community Colleges Chancellor's External Leadership Advisory Council; President's Advisory Council at California State University, Los Angeles (Cal State LA); Philanthropic Foundation Board of Governors at California State University, Fullerton; Development Council for the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at LMU; and Board of Advisors for the Luskin School of Public Affairs at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"I am honored to join the students, faculty and supporters of Santa Ana College at the upcoming SAC Foundation Scholarship and Awards Ceremony," stated George L. Pla. "I hope that my journey as an immigrant from Mexico who benefitted from the excellent

educational opportunities provided by California's community college system, will be relevant and a source of inspiration to the students at Santa Ana College who are looking to make a difference in their careers and communities."



George L. Pla

Cordoba Corporation is a nationally recognized California-based infrastructure development company focused on the transportation, education and facilities, energy and water sectors. Under Pla's leadership, Cordoba Corporation has been recognized by Engineering News-Record as a Top 50 Program Management and Top 100 Construction Management firm in the nation, as well as a Top 100 California Design firm. With eight offices statewide, including one of its largest offices located in Santa Ana, Cordoba Corporation provides local presence and is focused on Making a Difference in the communities in which its employees live and work.

Pla continues helping his alma maters, East Los Angeles College (ELAC) and Cal State LA. Cal State LA has honored Pla with its "Alumnus of the Year Award," "Joe Shapiro Humanitarian Award," and "Presidential Medallion" awards. He transferred to Cal State LA from ELAC, which recognized Pla with its "Alumnus of the Year" award. In addition, for his commitment to the community college system, Pla has also been awarded the prestigious California Community Colleges "Distinguished Alumni Award".

Mr. Pla was named one of the 100 Most Influential Latinos in the nation by *Hispanic Business* magazine and received the "Maestro Award for Entrepreneurship" from *Latino Leaders* magazine in 2020. Pla is also the author of the recently published best-selling book, *Power Shift - How Latinos in California Transformed Politics in America*.

Pla's keynote message at the award ceremony will focus on his insight and knowledge as a successful locally based Latino entrepreneur. Over 500 philanthropic supporters, RSCCD

leadership, SAC faculty and staff, community leaders, students, and family will come together to celebrate the students completing their educational journey.



The ceremony will also be honoring **MUFG Union Bank** as the 2021 Scholarship Honoree of the Year. MUFG Union Bank is recognized for its commitment toward investing in affordable housing, economic development, youth development environmental sustainability, and inclusion and diversity. Union Bank’s investment in the students at Santa Ana College ranges from thousands of dollars in high-impact program support to true leadership and advocacy on the Foundation Board of Directors. Most recently, Union Bank established an endowed scholarship at Santa Ana College to support underrepresented, high-achieving students accomplish their higher education goals and secure a sustainable financial future.

"Through Santa Ana College's long-term partnership with MUFG Union Bank, important scholarships, grants and program support has been provided to students," said the Director of Foundation and Community Service Officer of MUFG Union Bank **Rossina Gallegos**. "[These efforts] have had a direct and positive impact on student success initiatives at Santa Ana College."



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The SAC Foundation is committed to ensuring that no student is denied educational opportunities due to financial constraints. The scholarships are awarded competitively to deserving students who represent need and demonstrate great academic merit, achievement and leadership skills.

"Join us as we present this memorable ceremony to honor the support of our donors and community partners," said Executive Director of College Advancement, Christina Romero, representing the SAC Foundation. "Our most deserving students will be celebrated and recognized for their amazing achievements."

To register to join us for this virtual event, click [here](#).

About Santa Ana College

Santa Ana College (SAC), which turned 100 years old in 2015, serves about 18,000 students each semester at its main campus in Santa Ana. The college prepares students for transfer to four-year institutions, provides invaluable workforce training, and customized training for business and industry. In addition, another 11,000 students are served through the college's School of Continuing Education located at Centennial Education Center. Ranked as one of the nation's top two-year colleges awarding associate degrees to Latino and Asian students, the college is also recognized throughout the state for its comprehensive workforce training programs for nurses, firefighters, law enforcement and other medical personnel. SAC is one of two comprehensive colleges under the auspices of the [Rancho Santiago Community College District](#).

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