



**Resolution S2024.03**

**Recommendation to Rename the Santa Ana College Veterans Resource Center as *The John Acuña Veterans Resource Center***

Moved: Steve Bautista

Seconded: Ben Hager

Whereas, John Acuña’s personal and professional educational career centered around Santa Ana College, where he graduated as part of the class of 1965 and served as Professor, Counselor, and Faculty Program Coordinator for twenty years from 1988 to 2008;

Whereas, in recognition of his exceptional professional accomplishments, John Acuña was bestowed with the Santa Ana College Professional Achievement Award in 1997, honored as an inductee into the Santa Ana College Foundation Alumni Hall of Fame in 2001, recognized for his outstanding teaching and selected by his peers for the Santa Ana College Distinguished Faculty Award in 2005, and awarded the California Community Colleges Exemplary Program Award for his exceptional work with the Freshman Experience program in 2012;

Whereas, John Acuna proudly served in the United States Military from February 1968 to December 1970 as a commissioned artillery officer at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, where he taught military intelligence and served as a language liaison to visiting military personnel from other countries and retired as a first lieutenant; as a veteran, John Acuña advocated for the creation of the Veterans Resource Center at Santa Ana College, where students could receive veteran-specific services such as GI Bill benefits certification, academic counseling, English and math instructional assistance, university tours, transfer workshops, and access to veteran community resources in areas such as housing, mental health and wellness, and employment preparation;

Whereas, upon his retirement from Santa Ana College, John Acuña continued to work part-time as a Counselor at the Santa Ana College Veterans Resource Center and donated considerable personal time to the Veterans Resource Center and students in order to provide academic and personal support until his passing on February 14, 2024;

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VP of Community Operations, Merari Weber Weber\_Merari@sac.edu • Historian Andrew Barrios Barrios\_Andrew@sac.edu  
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Adjunct Faculty Representative, Karen Bravo Bravo\_Karen@sac.edu



Resolved, that the Santa Ana College President's Cabinet recommends to the Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) Board of Trustees that the Veterans Resource Center at Santa Ana College be officially renamed as *The John Acuña Veterans Resource Center*,

Further be it resolved, that the RSCCD Board of Trustees set aside any requirement for monetary donations for building naming rights as specified in Board Policy 6620 and Administrative Regulation 6620.

**Date Presented: April 23, 2024**

**Date Passed: April 23, 2024**

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**President**, Claire Coyne, Coyne\_Claire@sac.edu • **VP of Culture & Engagement**, Amberly Chamberlain, Chamberlain\_Amberly@sac.edu

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**RSCCD Board of Trustees**: Tina Arias Miller, Ed.D. • David Crockett • John R. Hanna • Zeke Hernandez • Sal Tinajero • Daisy X. Tong • Phillip E. Yarbrough

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