

# Santa Ana College Annual Classified

# Awards for Excellence

## An ongoing commitment to student success

2012  


Dear Colleagues,

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 times 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 a custodian. There are countless ways that classified staff members contribute to the learning and progress of our students.

When such recognitions occur, they underscore several key points. One of these is that student learning doesn't just happen in the classroom. Some of the most important learning that occurs for students frequently happens in other settings. 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.

Another key point is that classified staff members interact with students on a regular basis. The attitude that the classified members of a college demonstrate toward students can often determine how welcome students feel on a particular campus. It is especially pleasing that in the short time that I have been with this district, I have heard consistently positive remarks from students or former students about what a great environment Santa Ana College is for students. The classified staff members have to take a large measure of credit for creating that positive environment for students.

Although all classified employees deserve appreciation, I especially want to salute the classified employees of Santa Ana College that have been recognized by their peers and singled out for an Award of 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.



Sincerely,

Raúl Rodríguez, Ph.D.  
Chancellor

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.

We have been challenged to serve more students with fewer operational dollars as a result of the fiscal shortfall facing our state and our nation. However, 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





## **Classified Employee of the Year 2012**

### **Ruth Rodriguez**

Lead Interpreter  
Disabled Student Programs & Services

A warm and special applause to this year's recipient of the Classified Employee of the Year 2012, Ruth Rodriguez.

*The Classified Employee of the year honor recognizes the contributions made by our excellent classified staff at Rancho Santiago Community College District in providing support services to our students and the institution. All college personnel are invited to submit nominations for consideration by the Classified Awards Committee. Selection for this honor is determined on the basis of a vote count, assessment of individual recommendations and involvement in district activities.*

Ruth has been employed with the Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) for a notable twenty two years. Ruth was first introduced to the RSCCD when she attended Santa Ana College as a student. Ruth would later graduate from SAC and begin her career in the District in the year of 1989 as an on-going part-time sign language interpreter. Due to her great ambition to provide an essential service for students, she was then promoted to Lead Interpreter in 1998 and currently holds the title of Senior Interpreter.

Under the Disabled Student Programs and Services, Ruth has had an opportunity to excel by providing appropriate services to students in need. She works with the students in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program office and provides services for the students in a total of five school campuses. She goes above and beyond in providing students with the best services they could possibly attain.

Ruth meets with students before the start of every semester to understand their signing style, linguistic skills and preferences. Additionally, she schedules interpreters in the students' scheduled classes based on the above criteria and interpreter availability. It is evident that Ruth excels in her position but she raises the bar by also providing students with counseling appointments, meetings and class study groups that contribute to the success of the students. Ruth surpasses expectations by making life more manageable for those students under her watchful eye. She provides interpreting services for campus events, not putting any limitations on what she will do to help a student. Ruth is on-call 24/7 as well, always making sure that the students' needs are fully met.

Ultimately, Ruth is a hard-working and indispensable professional. She demonstrates respect for each person and is positive, helpful, friendly, outgoing and considerate. Her colleagues also appreciate her delicious chocolate, muffins and cupcakes! With the twenty plus years under her belt, she has done an astonishing job molding the Deaf and Hard Hearing Program! Undoubtedly, it is an honor to have Ruth as one of our own.

Congratulations to you Ruth, for your dedication, hard work and countless contributions to Santa Ana College!



*This award recognizes the “Half-of-the-Time” employee whose full-time effort and achievement enable the district to continue service to students.*

## **HOTT (Half-of-the-Time) Award**

### **Mark Franco**

Transfer Center Specialist/Counseling Assistant  
Transfer Center

Congratulations to Mark Franco for his role as the 2012 exemplary employee selected to represent the attributes of all part-time employees with the Half-of-the-Time Award!

As a nearly eight year employee, Mark served the Rancho Santiago Community College District as an instructional assistant then went on to work with EOPS as a counseling assistant. He currently works at the college’s Transfer Center where he adequately guides students through the UC/CSU application process, while also informing them of the services and programs offered by the Transfer Center. In addition, he serves as voluntary advisor to the colleges’ Circle K Club and I.D.E.A.S Club which supports AB540 students. He is most proud of assisting students towards accomplishing their goals both in an academic level and personal level.

Mark’s supervisors and colleagues admire his work approach. They describe him as deeply student-centered in student interactions in addition to problem solving. His fellow team members indicate that he offers a gentle demeanor and calm presence in the face of potentially difficult situations. Mark’s dedication to assisting students is exemplary. He will go out of his way to provide students with essential information, even if it’s after hours. Moreover, he is an attentive individual, a team player, dependable, flexible, and a true asset to the department.

Mark believes in the importance of flexibility, individual and professional growth, in addition to always assisting students with a positive attitude. He is truly honored and grateful of his nomination for this recognition.

Congratulations to Mark for representing the core of our part-time employees with his attentiveness, passion, and flexibility with colleagues and our students!



## **Bill Brush Colleague Appreciation Award**

### **Lee Rodriguez**

Lead Custodian  
Santa Ana College

A special salute and sincere congratulations to Lee Rodriguez for his recognition as the recipient of the Bill Brush Colleague Appreciation Award!

Lee has worked for the Rancho Santiago Community College District as lead custodian for seven years. In addition to his dedicated work around the campus, Lee has assisted with one of SAC's most rewarding events: the graduation and convocation ceremony where he has been able to work with several departments to assure the success of the event.

Colleagues share that Lee's dedication to helping students and faculty is exemplary, in addition to his willingness to assist in unpredicted situations. His resourcefulness and positive attitude add up to a great work relationship between colleagues.

Lee believes that in order to be able to successfully work with others we must promote collegiality by asking for assistance in a kind manner and always thanking our colleges for their support. Lee believes that respecting others will reap respect in return and thus create the vital unity that is needed to complete any project.

Warm congratulations to Lee who reminds us that holding a positive attitude, maintaining motivation, and asking for our colleagues' opinion will result in a positive work environment. Your team work, beliefs, pleasant personality, and hard working presence represent this prestigious award perfectly!

*This award recognizes an individual who is "nearly indispensable" and who demonstrates sensitivity, dedication, resourcefulness, positive attitude and enthusiasm.*



## Professional Achievement Award

### Tina Pov

Data Entry Clerk  
Santa Ana College

Congratulations to Tina Pov as the recipient of this year's Professional Achievement Award. Tina has been working for RSCCD for six years, starting as a student worker and then moving towards a part time data clerk and currently serving as an outstanding full time data entry clerk.

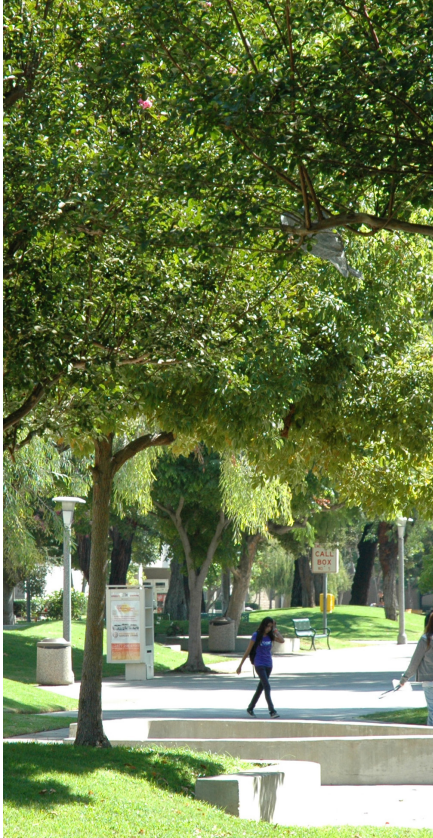
*This award is given to an employee for demonstrating outstanding job performance and professional growth through education, positive impact and creativity, or experience and dedication leading to promotion*

Tina highly values education and maintains a consistent effort to enhance her learning. Arriving to the United States only a few years ago, Tina has received three associates' degrees from Santa Ana College, a bachelors of science in mathematics from the University of California, Irvine, and is currently pursuing a Masters degree in mathematics at California State University, Long Beach.

Tina's exemplary work was demonstrated when the department lost two key figures. Tina was able to master three separate systems and successfully support the Curriculum and Instruction Council effort and catalog changes. In addition, Tina was able to populate the degree audit module that provides student status on the pursuit of degrees and certificates.

Colleagues indicate that Tina is versatile in performing job functions, enjoys helping others succeed, and focuses on new challenges. Tina holds a positive disposition and a "can do" attitude demonstrating her dedication to achievement, and creativity.

Tina would like her colleagues to know that she seeks to bring a positive influence to all of her activities. She adds, that as Aristotle once said, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit." This quote fits you perfectly and congratulations Tina!



**2012 Classified Awards Finalists**

**Classified Employee of the Year**

Geni Lusk  
Ruth Rodriguez

**Half-of-the-Time**

(H-O-T-T) Award  
Mark Franco  
Cynthia Gonzalez

**Bill Brush Colleague Appreciation Award**

Lee Rodriguez  
Ruth Rodriguez  
Teresa Verduzco

**Professional Achievement Award**

Veronica Hurtado  
Tina Pov  
Leslie Wood-Rogers

**2012 Classified Awards Committee**

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

**2011/2012 Retirees**

Adelle Alsop	Maria Taylor, Co-Chair Facilities Coordinator Academic Affairs
Elizabeth Cuellar	Karen Scott Classified Employee of the Year Award Recipient, 2011
Ricardo Foreman	Executive Secretary, Student Services Santa Ana College
Sherry Miller	Monika Barbery H-O-T-T (Half-of-the-Time) Award Recipient, 2011
John Nastasi	Counseling Assistant Centennial Education Center
Volker Thorey	Monique Marthell Bill Brush Colleague Appreciation Award Recipient, 2011
Mario Villa	Instructional Assistant Centennial Education Center
	Trevor Kay Professional Achievement Award Recipient, 2011
	Admissions & Records Specialist 1 Santa Ana College



## Classified Service Pin Awards 2012

### 10 Year Recipients

Sandra Arredondo	Pablo Hernandez	Joseph Nguyen
Joseph Arriola	Santiago Loayza	Raul Quinonez
Ricardo Benavides	Geni Lusk	Manuel Tapia
Aaron Butler	Loan Lynch	Angela Tran
Alan Casas	Elena Mendoza	Kathleen White

### 15 Year Recipients

Patricia Arreola	Veronica Hurtado	Claudia Rivero
Shao Chung	Carl Jaeger	Jose Salcedo
Janet Eldridge	Modesto Jusay	Angelo Sanchez
Anaya Franklin	Maria Moreno	Chris Truong
Dianne Freeman	Linda Morrow	Maria Verduzco
Marisol Gahbler	Sergio Nava	Glenda Welch
Jesus Garcia	Andy Nguyen	
Christine Gorlato	Elizabeth Pinon	

### 20 Year Recipients

Stephen Brennan	Rondi Johnson	Jose Roberto Villegas
Carmelita Eustaquio	Linda Mills	
Arturo Garza	Kerry Penning	

### 25 Year Recipients

Beatrice Cain  
 Evangelina Contreras  
 Robert Norris

### 30 Year Recipients

Susan Hadland  
 John Tran

### RSCCD Board of Trustees

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Chancellor  
 Raúl Rodríguez, Ph.D.  
 Santa Ana College President  
 Erlinda J. Martinez, Ed.D.

### Thank you

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# SANTA ANA COLLEGE