



**CHANCELLOR'S AWARD  
FOR EXCELLENCE**  
*Gary and Sheila Locke*  
RCC Marching Tigers

Gary and Sheila Locke are the wizards behind the band curtain, and have been for more than 32 years at Riverside City College.

One cannot mention the RCC Marching Tigers without acknowledging the debt owed to the Lockes. The RCC Marching

Tigers helped put the College and the city of Riverside on the map—locally, nationally and internationally. And it all started with two talented individuals, fresh off successes with band members at Banning High School and with the North High School Blue Star Regiment.

Like all memorable stories, this one contains drama, momentary despair, redemption, and, ultimately, success. Along the way, the Lockes changed thousands of lives, and the RCC Marching Tigers inspired millions of people.

You may recognize the RCC Marching Tigers from nine appearances in the Tournament of Roses Parade, three in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, half-time performances at the Sunkist Fiesta Bowl, and TV and film roles in "My Blue Heaven," "Hero," "Austin Powers," and the "Truman Show." Or you may have seen them at one or more of the Disney Parks or across the oceans in England, France, Italy, Spain, or Australia.

The Lockes combined teaching music with building character. Being an RCC Marching Tiger meant showing up on time, putting in the work, staging a "big time" show, and most importantly, having fun. In the process, the student musicians, color guard members, drum majors and other performers learned what it took to succeed on the field, marching along Colorado Boulevard, and in life.

Three decades later, Gary and Sheila are ready to turn the baton over to a new generation of directors and coaches. The national championships, international trips, commercials, television coverage and films showcase the impact the Lockes and the RCC Marching Tigers have had in the performance and band worlds. But the performers themselves remember the practices, road trips, and shared meals just as fondly.

Today, band members and band alumni say the RCC Marching Tigers will remain Gary's and Sheila's in spirit. The Lockes, they say, created one of the world's largest families. And the children will always do their band matriarch and patriarch proud.