

DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Marcia McQuern

Heralded as a trailblazer for women in journalism, former president and chief executive officer of The Press-Enterprise Co. Marcia McQuern is one of Riverside's most prominent citizens.

Marcia was born and raised in Riverside and is a graduate of Riverside Polytechnic High School. While studying at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Marcia accepted an internship at the Press-Enterprise. After graduating from UCSB she went on to Northwestern University and earned a master's degree in Journalism.

She returned to Riverside to begin a full-time career with The Press-Enterprise. She was selected as a Pulitzer Prize juror in 1982, 1983, 1992, and 1993, and in 2001 became the first female president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. In 2002, the California Press Association selected her as the Newspaper Executive of the Year.

Associates and friends describe Marcia as a "unique person with a combination of journalistic skills, integrity, business acumen, and a wonderful sense of humor." Her public service includes serving as a board member and president of the RCC Foundation, a board member of the UC Riverside Foundation, member of the Monday Morning Group and the Murrieta-Temecula Group, and board member of the National Orange Show. She recently became involved with the Alternatives to Domestic Violence organization.

"I see myself as a regional citizen," Marcia says. "I think it is important for people to help organizations that are contributing to the quality of life in the area."

Marcia has long been involved with RCC. Her mother, Dorothy Knopf, attended here before transferring to UCLA. Her brother also graduated from RCC, and her father, Arthur Knopf, was a longtime teacher and administrator at the College. Marcia first visited RCC as a student during an elementary school summer enrichment program. Her second visit was the result of an automobile accident. The accident left her unable to peer down into a microscope and she had to drop a UC Santa Barbara biology class. RCC teachers found a microscope that accommodated straight-ahead viewing and Marcia successfully complete her biology requirement at the Riverside City Campus.

Of her involvement with local colleges and universities, Marcia says, "Higher education is extremely important. Many students in our area don't go on to college. We need to help push for solutions to this problem."

