

DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Jamil Dada

If Hollywood ever remakes the famous movie in which Jimmy Stewart plays a young politician, the Inland Empire could make a strong argument that the new film's title should be "Mr. Moreno Valley Goes to Washington." The star, of course, would be Jamil Dada.

As one of our leading community members, Dada wears many hats: Manager of Investment Services for Provident Bank's 12 branches; Chairman of the County Workforce Development Board; Chairman of the Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce; and, President of the March Air Field Museum. His duties in these areas, and most recently, his role as a director on the National Association of Workforce Board, take him around the region, north to Sacramento, and east to Washington, DC.



His passion for building better communities drives him to put in long hours, somehow balancing his business, public, and private lives. To sleep more than five hours a night is a waste of time, he says. "I have too much that I want to get done...too much that our community needs. I am fortunate to have a great wife and family and a supportive employer. I love what I do."

Two pressing issues for Dada are the development of the workforce and the use of facilities in our region as resources to strengthen the nation's Homeland Security capabilities.

Dada calls workforce development "the future of our youth and our communities," and he is tireless in his efforts to promote programs that train skilled workers and attract new businesses to Riverside County. Recognizing Dada's sense of purpose and his effectiveness as a leader, Governor Schwarzenegger appointed him to serve on the California Workforce Investment Board.

His interest in the military and Homeland Security issues can be seen through his work with the March Air Reserve Base and Field Museum and the Ben Clark Public Safety Training Center. This work is a natural extension of his gratitude toward "a nation and a community that accepted me as one of their own," says the man who came to the U.S. at age 21.

That desire to give back extends into the community as well. Dada is a member of the Moreno Valley Noon Rotary Club, is involved in the Community Assistance Program and Moreno Valley's largest food pantry, supports the Boy Scouts of America, and serves as a board member for the MVUSD "Access to the Future" program, and the United Way of the Inland Valleys.

His ties to Riverside Community College are equally strong. His wife and one of their daughters are RCC alumnae, and Dada is a longtime member of the RCC Foundation Board of Directors. He also serves as a member on the Measure C Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee.