2011 Annual Recognition Awards

On April 7, 150 friends of the District gathered at the Mission Inn to recognize and honor several outstanding individuals for their leadership of our colleges and the community. The RCCD Foundation co-hosted the event. Awards for Alumnus of the Year, Distinguished Public Service, and Foundation Partner of the Year were presented, as were two new categories: Young Alumnus of the Year and the Chancellor’s Award.

As a community college district, we serve students and seek to strengthen our communities,” said RCCD Chancellor Gregory W. Gray. “This year’s award recipients carry the concept of service and community building onto the regional, state and national stages. Their achievements benefit all of us.”

Lou Monville, 2010 Distinguished Public Service Award recipient, served as this year’s Master of Ceremonies, and guests enjoyed student entertainment provided by the RCC Jazz Combo, the RCC Chamber Singers, and pianist Peter Roeleveld.

We are especially grateful to the following event sponsors:

- Veterans’ 5K Run/Walk
  - Saturday, May 28, 2011
  - Wheelock Stadium/Track

The Riverside City College Veterans Memorial Weekend 5k was a smashing success with double the participants from the inaugural run in 2010. Funds raised will provide needed scholarships for veterans attending Riverside City College. It’s not too late to support this worthy event—use the envelope provided and mark it “Veterans 5K scholarship fund.”
President’s Message

California community colleges face great challenges next year, challenges that will affect the 56,000 students attending Moreno Valley College, Norco College and Riverside City College. As the support organization for Riverside Community College District and its colleges, the RCCD Foundation must help the District meet those challenges.

The Foundation is fortunate to have a dedicated Board of Directors, composed of community leaders and professionals who place a high value on a college education. As directors, we know RCCD traditionally has offered opportunities to everyone in our communities, whether a person is a recent high school graduate, an adult seeking job skills, a C-student or an A-student, a single parent or a first-generation college-goer.

Unfortunately, it is this extraordinary access to higher education that is threatened by growing cuts in state funding for higher education. In the past two years, RCCD has had to reduce its budget by more than $26 million. Next year, the District and colleges face a budget gap ranging from $18 to $28 million depending on how and when the State Legislature passes a budget.

Chancellor Gregory Gray recently briefed the RCCD Foundation Board on the situation facing the District. While faculty, staff and administrators are doing everything possible to reduce costs through operational efficiencies, spending reductions, and hiring freezes, there have and will continue to be impacts on students because of unavoidable class section reductions.

Yet, even while locked in this “budgetary battle,” RCCD continues to develop needed programs, services, and facilities. This is possible thanks to resources such as Measure C (local money that can only be used for college construction), a district-wide commitment to serving all students, including veterans (see article on pg. 1), and an ability to attract grants and private support. The question isn’t whether RCCD colleges will survive this economic downturn, it is what must RCCD colleges do to maintain a quality learning environment for our sons, daughters, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Chancellor Gray said, and I agree, that state funding for higher education will not grow in the future. California’s financial problems are too severe. The work we do here at the Foundation, and the support received from friends and donors like you, is the single brightest ray of hope for tomorrow’s community college students.

Kerry L. Pendergast
President

College Leadership Changes

In April, Riverside City College welcomed Cynthia E. Azari, Ed.D. as its 10th President. A graduate of Huston Tillotson College in Austin, Texas, Azari earned an MS in Industrial Relations and an MA in Educational Administration from West Virginia University, and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Seattle University. Most recently, Azari served as President of Fresno City College.

“I am honored to have been selected. The College has an outstanding reputation, as does the RCCD Foundation,” said Azari. “In these difficult economic times, attracting private support will be especially critical, and I look forward to working with the RCCD Foundation and the many individuals and businesses who so generously support the College.”

We are fortunate that Dr. Tom Harris, who served as Acting President of Riverside City College for the past year, has agreed to remain with the District, now serving as Interim President of Moreno Valley College, succeeding Dr. Monte Perez who has accepted the Presidency of LA Mission College.

Hands Across California Supports Osher Challenge

On April 17, students from Moreno Valley College, Norco College and Riverside City College joined hands with other California community college supporters in Hands Across California, an advocacy and fundraising event modeled after the 1986 Hands Across America.

Forming human chains at campuses and along streets from Sacramento to San Diego, Hands Across California illustrated the tremendous impact of the California community college system, which currently educates 2.8 million students annually.

RCCD participants also raised scholarship support through the Osher challenge. All scholarship gifts received by June 30 will be matched 2:1 by the Bernard Osher Foundation. To date, more than $300,000 has been raised to support scholarships established through the RCCD Foundation.

“I was especially proud that students from each of our colleges participated in this event, and I encourage friends of RCCD to take advantage of the Osher Challenge and make a scholarship gift before the June 30 deadline,” said Chancellor Gray.

To learn more about the Osher Challenge, call the RCCD Foundation at 222-8626.
**REMEMBERING CAROLYN**

In March, Riverside Community College District and the RCCD Foundation lost an exceptional friend and supporter, Carolyn Diffenbaugh.

At RCCD, Carolyn’s legacy of leadership and her support for students will be forever remembered. In 1964, when Riverside Community College officially became a District governed by an elected Board, Carolyn served as the founding president of the Board of Trustees, and remained as a trustee until 1971. A reflection of the respect she earned from her peers was her election as one of nine members of the statewide California Junior College Association (CJCA).

In 1975, when the RCCD Foundation was established, Carolyn also stepped forward in a leadership capacity, serving as the founding president and remaining a Board member until her husband, Jay’s, retirement and their subsequent move to Colorado. Her leadership of the RCCD Foundation set a standard for participation that remains today. “In her role as a trustee and as a Foundation Board member, Carolyn’s first priority was always ensuring access for students. RCCD will be forever indebted to her for her vision and her leadership,” said Amy Cardullo, director of the RCCD Foundation.

A renowned sculptor, Carolyn received her bachelor’s degree from Bennington College in 1940 and her master’s degree in 1942 from Columbia University. She studied under Simon Moselsio at Bennington, and later, when she settled in California, under sculptors John Svenson, Betty Davenport Ford and Robert Ortlieb. Her works have been exhibited throughout the United States and can be found in many private collections. She focused her efforts on figurative sculpture, working in stone, wood, clay and bronze. Her strong emphasis on rhythm, harmony and light derive from her earlier career as a dancer.

After moving to Colorado, Carolyn kept her ties to RCC. She made sure to visit the College when her travels brought her back to Riverside, and assisted the Dance department in raising needed scholarship support for students. “Carolyn has always been such a strong supporter of the arts. I will always be thankful for her support of Dance at RCC,” notes Jo Dierdorff, professor of Dance.

We are grateful that through the years, Carolyn remained a valued annual contributor to the Foundation, providing unrestricted support that enabled the Foundation to direct her gift to an area of greatest need.
DISTRICT AND FOUNDATION HAPPENINGS

Local artists and craftsmen provided art, ceramics and jewelry to be auctioned at the Friends of RCCD Forensics 6th Annual Art Auction on February 26. Over $12,000 was raised to support speech education programs and competitive activities at RCCD’s three colleges and the K-12 schools within the RCC District.

In February, the RCC Dance Department and Coil School for the Arts hosted Tijuana’s Lux Boreal Danza Contemporanea, an exciting new dance company. The 10-day visit included a concert at Landis Performing Arts Center, workshops for RCC students, and visits to select area elementary, middle and high schools. This exciting cultural exchange was sponsored in part by the City of Riverside.

Construction continues on the seismic retrofit and modernization of the Wheelock Gymnasium at Riverside City College. Funding for the project has been provided by Measure C funds, approved by the voters in 2004. The project is expected to be complete in spring 2012.