EDISON GRANTS PROVIDE STEM SCHOLARSHIPS

At RCCD, we know that education and access are key to opening opportunities for personal growth and financial success. This is particularly true in STEM fields - science, technology, engineering and math. Today, students in the U.S. continue to fall behind other countries in pursuing STEM education, which reduces the number of people qualified for highly skilled occupations. But thanks to a partnership with Southern California Edison, more than 75 students at Norco College and Riverside City College will soon get the opportunity to pursue a STEM career.

In March, Louis Davis, Region Public Affairs Manager for Southern California Edison, presented two grants of $25,000 each to the RCCD Foundation. Each grant will provide scholarship support to NC and RCC students majoring in STEM fields or transferring to four-year colleges and universities to pursue STEM careers. We look forward to presenting the first of these grants at our spring scholarship ceremonies.

Thank you to Southern California Edison for its outstanding partnership!

Funds Established in Support of Social Justice

Since the June 2012 preview opening of the Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties, more than 1,300 visitors and 40 private tours have been hosted to view the inaugural exhibit, “Riverside Stories,” and The Miné Okubo Collection, an arts and humanities archive bequeathed by noted Japanese American artist and RCC alumna Miné Okubo.

In addition, two special funds have been established to support activities at the Center. In December, more than 125 friends and supporters gathered to celebrate Congressman-elect Mark Takano, who served 22 years as a member of the RCCD Board of Trustees. Among the special guests was Scott Lay, CEO of the Community College League of California, who presented the first gift to the Takano Legacy Fund. The fund will support operations and activities at the Center to increase access to education.

Also in December, a special gift was made by RCC Alumnus John Gabbert, who served as Riverside County Superior Court Judge and Associate Justice of the California Court of Appeals, to establish the Gabbert Fund for Social Justice. This fund will be used to continue a special series of reenactments of important historic legal cases previously begun by the Fourth District Court of Appeals; and to support other identified social justice initiatives.

To contribute to the Takano Legacy Fund or the Gabbert Fund for Social Justice, contact the RCCD Foundation at (951) 222-8626 or contribute on line at www.rccd.edu/Foundation.

Remembering "Doc" Stallings

In February, RCC lost a valued member of its family. Professor Emerita Dina Brock Stallings served the College for 26 years as a faculty member and as founder and director of the College’s nationally recognized forensics and debate program. As a teacher, mentor and friend, her impact on thousands of students is immeasurable.

A graduate of Southeastern Oklahoma State, Dina earned her master’s and doctoral degrees at USC, and shared a passion for education with her late husband John, a former superintendent of the Corona-Norco Unified School District.

Dina’s career at RCC was filled with recognition. She was the first female to be named full professor and she created the children’s literature program. Students selected her as RCC Teacher of the Year, and her peers chose her to deliver the Distinguished Faculty Lecture in 1982.

Dina was best known for her work in forensics. She founded and directed the RCC Forensics and Debate program, and in the 1960s and 70s her teams won the National Sweepstakes Trophy for community colleges on several occasions. She also established the Friends of RCCD Forensics, which promotes speaking activities from kindergarten through twelfth grade and at the college level and has endowed eight special funds through the RCCD Foundation.

Dina will indeed be missed, but we are fortunate that through the Friends of RCCD Forensics, her legacy of “success through communications” will continue in perpetuity. Dina’s family has asked that gifts in her memory be made to the RCCD Foundation for the Friends of RCCD Forensics.
President’s Message

Spring is a very busy time for the RCCD Foundation. This year seems even busier than usual, following the summer opening of the Center for Social Justice & Civil Liberties downtown, the fall’s Athletic Hall of Fame Awards, the rededication of Wheelock Gym, and the recent dedication of the Brenda and William Davis Center for Student Success at Norco College. I am happy to say that the calendar leading to commencement ceremonies in June is just as packed.

One calendar standout is the upcoming RCCD Annual Recognition Awards & Arts Gala on Thursday, April 25. Not only will the event feature performances by music, vocal and dance groups from Moreno Valley, Norco and Riverside City colleges, it also is our opportunity to recognize the contributions and achievements of six outstanding individuals and one valued business partner. All proceeds from the evening go to support the arts programs at RCCD colleges, so I encourage you to read the pre-event story on page three, and to consider attending this special showcase.

This year also is a time where we want to continue building support for several new District and college initiatives. It is amazing to me that just 10 months ago we helped the District host a preview opening of the Center for Social Justice & Civil Liberties. Since that time, the Center has hosted more than 40 tours and meetings and welcomed nearly 1,300 visitors. The Center is becoming part of the downtown scene and was a popular stop during the 2012 Discover Riverside event. Work continues to catalog and curate The Miné Okubo Collection fully, as are discussions about future programming to follow the inaugural Riverside Stories exhibition.

As a Foundation, we continue to seek private support for this one-of-a-kind community resource. One such support opportunity is the Congressman Mark Takano Legacy Fund. In December, I was proud to attend a send-off event for the new Congressman, during which we announced the legacy fund, which will support programming and operations at the new Center. In February I received the Congressman’s local swearing-in ceremony. Similarly, you will read about the fund established by Justice John Gabbert, one of RCC’s most distinguished alumni, and about the recent pair of $25,000 Southern California Edison grants to Norco College and Riverside City College. All of these stories share a common theme: supporting student success at our three colleges, along with initiatives that strengthen our communities and local workforce.

Chances are good that, when I am wearing my workforce investment hat, you’ve heard me say, “Community colleges are one of the most fundamental and important ways that society can prepare a skilled workforce for the 21st century.” The exciting thing is that I can say the exact same thing wearing my investment banker’s hat or my RCCD Foundation president’s hat. And mean it wholeheartedly.

I believe in community colleges. I especially believe in RCCD’s three community colleges. I know that many of you share that belief. Thank you for your confidence and support.

Jamil Dada
President
RCCD Foundation Board of Directors

New Endowments

One of the most meaningful ways to help a student while also honoring or memorializing a loved one is by establishing a scholarship through the RCCD Foundation. And if you endow that scholarship, you ensure that the scholarship you create today will be awarded in perpetuity to deserving students. We are grateful that two special friends of the Foundation, both of whom are alums, have made that commitment.

You may recognize the name of 2003 Alumnus of the Year Gene Gleeson for his many years as reporter and news anchor for KABC News. Gene was born and raised in Riverside, and attended RCC from 1963 to 1965 before transferring to San Diego State University to complete his bachelor’s degree. He later earned his master’s in journalism from Columbia. Gene is extremely proud of the education he received at RCC, and over the years, Gene and his wife, Traute, have demonstrated their commitment to RCC with outstanding support for several initiatives, including Passport to College and the purchase of the RCCD Alumni House.

Gene credits his success in part to the values and commitment to education that was instilled in him by his parents, Mary Florence (Love) and Willard Lafayette Gleeson. Together, Gene and Traute recently endowed a scholarship in Mary’s memory. Mary, who was born on a farm in Nebraska in 1910, was the fifth of eight children. Mary received certification as a registered nurse in 1932 from Omaha Methodist Hospital. She worked for several years as a private duty nurse before signing on with the Union Pacific Railroad as a stewardess, for which being an RN was a requirement. On one of her trips, she met her future husband, Bill Gleeson, and they settled in Riverside to raise their five children: Robert Gleeson, Betty Gleeson Driscoll, Mary Ann Gleeson Stalder, Gene, and Lois Gleeson MacDonald.

Once her children were in school, Mary returned to nursing, working in Riverside and later in Imperial County where Bill’s work took them. She was active in the California Nurses Association and the Nightingale Club, among other volunteer pursuits. The Mary Florence Gleeson Memorial Endowed Scholarship will support a continuing RN student.

RCC Alums Gary and Patty (Shelton) Taylor were leaders during their time at RCC. For Gary, it was on the football field. For Patty, it was in student leadership. In fact, Patty was an elected officer in the Associated Students of RCC, and earned the distinction of being RCC’s first “Woman of Distinction,” a recognition that is still awarded annually. Gary and Patty were fortunate. When they transferred from RCC to Fresno State to complete their education, both received scholarship support.

Gary and Patty have never forgotten the importance of the recognition and assistance they received. Through the Patty Shelton Taylor Endowed Education Scholarship, they will pay it forward and provide an annual scholarship in perpetuity to a student seeking a career in education who has demonstrated a commitment to service.
**Recent Happenings**

**In February, RCC’s Chicano/Latinos for Community Medicine student group played a leadership role in the 2nd Annual Health Fair, held at the Cesar Chavez Community Center. More than 1,000 attendees received free dental examinations, eye exams, diabetes screening, and other services provided by the Flying Doctors, the Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Association, the Borrego Community Health Foundation, and the Lions Club. The event was coordinated by the League of United Latin American Citizens, and was sponsored by grants from Riverside Community Health Foundation and the Center for Community Change.**

**In March, family and supporters of Norco College President Emerita Brenda Davis gathered for the dedication of the Brenda and William Davis Center for Student Success at Norco College. The event was coordinated by the League of United Latin American Citizens, and was sponsored by grants from Riverside Community Health Foundation and the Center for Community Change.**

**In March, the Friends of RCCD Forensics presented a check to the RCC Model United Nations team to support travel to the 2013 National MUN Conference in New York, where the MUN team was awarded Outstanding Delegation! FOF President Dr. Susan Jindra (right), is pictured with RCC President Dr. Cynthia Azari (left), RCCD President Virginia Blumenthal, and MUN students.**

**On April 25, the Riverside Municipal Auditorium will host more than 200 guests at the 2013 Annual Recognition Awards & Arts Gala as Riverside Community College District honors outstanding alumni and special friends for their notable contributions. Legendary blues harmonica player and singer, Rod Piazza, will be honored as 2013 Alumnus of the Year, and will cap the evening by performing with current RCC students. The Gala will also feature student performances by music, dance, and theatre groups from Moreno Valley, Norco and Riverside City colleges.**

“We are so excited to host our signature event at the Municipal Auditorium. The layout will allow us to appropriately honor our award recipients and provide the right staging to highlight our student performers,” said Foundation Director Amy Cardullo. “We appreciate the tremendous response we have received from our sponsors and community supporters who recognize that proceeds will go towards student enrichment and arts programs at the three colleges.”

Other award recipients include Judy Carpenter, President and COO, Riverside Medical Clinic, for Distinguished Public Service; Moreno Valley College Young Alumnus Jesus Fajardo; Norco College Young Alumnus Omar Gonzalez; Riverside City College Young Alumnus Jeff Soto; Outstanding Partner, Bank of America; and former U.S. Secretary of Transportation and former U.S. Secretary of Commerce Norm Mineta, who will receive the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence.

A complete recap of the Gala, including a full list of sponsors, will be included in the next issue of the Journal. For tickets and other information, call (951) 222-8958.
Join us at the …

RCC Tigerbackers Golf Tournament

Monday, May 13
Canyon Crest Country Club

Proceeds from the tournament support RCC’s 17 men’s and women’s athletic teams.

Sponsorships are available! Or, choose to purchase a tee sign, foursome, or contribute a raffle prize.

Please contact the RCCD Foundation office at (951) 222-8626.

April 25
RCCD Annual Recognition Awards & Arts Gala
Riverside Auditorium & Events Center
Call today for reservations!

May 2
RCCD Century Circle Luncheon
Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties
Honoring annual donors of $1000 or more in unrestricted support.

May 17
Heritage Circle Luncheon
RCC Art Gallery
Honoring Endowment & Planned Gift donors.