



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Judy Iannaccone
Director, Communications
Phone: (714) 480-7503
E-mail: iannaccone_judy@rscsd.edu

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hundreds of Parents Walk Santa Ana Neighborhoods to Spotlight High School Registration on August 8

(Santa Ana)— On Saturday, August 8 beginning at 8 a.m., over 200 secondary school parents and their children will take part in the “Camino de Amistad” (Friendship Walk) to raise awareness of key high school registration dates. This annual effort is conducted by the *Padres Promotores de la Educación*, a partnership of Santa Ana College; Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD); California State University, Fullerton; University of California, Irvine; and community-based organizations.

The Santa Ana Partnership's *Padres Promotores de la Educación* is a grassroots program for parents, by parents with a fundamental mission to deliver information about early preparation and options for higher education with the goal of increasing the number of Santa Ana youth who go to college. This is done primarily through non-traditional methods including home visitation and educational dialogues. Since 2002, the *Promotores* have conducted over 5,000 home visits and trained over 400 parents.

Through the “Camino de Amistad” some 20,000 door hangers will be distributed by parents and students who will meet at Century, Saddleback, Santa Ana, Valley, Godinez, and Segerstrom high schools and then walk surrounding neighborhoods. High school students who participate in the walk will earn community services hours for participating with their parents.

“The support of our parent community in encouraging families with teens to register for high school and to pursue higher education indicates their commitment to the success of our children,” said Patricia Gomez, SAUSD parent coordinator. “Parent volunteers are a credible resource in helping to deliver this important message to families and we value their assistance in this massive effort every year,” Gomez said.

The inaugural Camino de Amistad was held in August 2002 and is now an annual outreach effort of the Santa Ana Partnership, an inter-segmental collaboration promoting access to higher education. The *Padres Promotores de la Educación* are primarily funded by the U. S. Department of Education’s GEAR-UP grant and Santa Ana College. All institutional partners are providing matching funds.

About the Rancho Santiago Community College District

The mission of the Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) is to respond to the educational needs of an ever-changing community and to provide programs and services that reflect academic excellence. Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College are public community colleges of RSCCD, which serve the residents of Anaheim Hills, East Garden Grove, Irvine, Orange, Santa Ana, Tustin and Villa Park. Both colleges provide education for academic transfer and careers, courses for personal and professional development, customized training for business and industry, and programs to train nurses, firefighters and law enforcement personnel.

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