



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rancho Santiago Community College District Celebrates Grand Opening of Santa Ana College Child Development Center East Campus on March 16 Downtown Santa Ana center gives 144 youngsters a jumpstart on education

(Santa Ana)—Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) will celebrate the grand opening of the new Santa Ana College Child Development Center East Campus on Monday, March 16 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. The new center is located at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1510 N. Parton St. in downtown Santa Ana.

Festivities will feature a parade of three- and four-year-olds and presentations by Santa Ana College President Erlinda J. Martinez, Ed.D.; RSCCD Trustees' President R. David Chapel, Ed.D.; RSCCD Chancellor Edward Hernandez, Jr., Ed.D.; St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church's Pastor Jon Pedersen; and owner of Libreria Martínez Books Rueben Martinez. After the brief program, guests will enjoy facility tours and light refreshments including peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Amin David, president of Los Amigos Orange County: Erlinda J. Martinez, Ed.D.; Rueben Martinez; and Janet Nguyen, Orange County Supervisor, First District; will read their favorite storybooks to the youngsters.

Thanks to a \$632,000 annual grant from the California Department of Education Child Development Division that covers all of its costs, the new center welcomed its first students on February 17, 2009. With room for 144 three- and four-year-olds in three classrooms, there are currently 125 children enrolled. Enrollment is open to college students' children, as well as those of neighborhood families. For families that qualify to enroll their children in state preschools, there is no fee for the center's half-day sessions.

“With 36 years of experience in providing quality early childhood development services, the college district is enthusiastic about expanding our reach to offer even more low-income, high-needs children a jumpstart on kindergarten and beyond,” said Dee Tucker, executive director, Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) Child Development Services.

The program emphasizes parent education and encourages parent involvement. In addition to preschool education activities that are developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate for the children served, the center will serve lunches or snacks to the children, and

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provide referrals to health and social services through the college district's family services program. The center is open Monday through Friday with a morning session from 8:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. and an afternoon session from 12:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

With the addition of the Santa Ana College Child Development Center East Campus, RSCCD now operates five child development centers serving Santa Ana and Santiago Canyon colleges' students' child care needs. Each center supports and promotes the district's commitment to student success by providing access to vital, comprehensive, and quality early childhood education programs and services, which reflect and address the needs of a diverse community. The four long-standing centers hold national accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children and Five Star Quality Ratings through the Orange County United Way.

The centers provide:

- Lab schools for college students studying human development.
- Care, education, and nurturing for more than 900 youngsters from six months to five-years-old.
- Free and low-cost services for families that qualify.
- Counseling services, parenting education, and one-on-one referrals to health and social services through the district's family services program.
- Support to families living in Anaheim Hills, Garden Grove, Irvine, Orange, Santa Ana, Tustin and Villa Park.
- Play with purpose as the primary vehicle for instruction.

For more information about the Santa Ana College Child Development Center East Campus or the district's other four centers, call (714) 480-7546 or visit www.rsccd.edu.

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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