



NEWS RELEASE

September 28, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Judy Iannaccone
RSCCD Public Affairs
(714) 480-7503
iannaccone_judy@rsccd.edu

Laurie Weidner, APR
RSCCD Public Affairs
(714) 480-7509
weidner_laurie@rsccd.edu

Angela Burrell, APR
SAUSD PIO
(714) 558-5555
Angela.Burrell@SAUSD.US

400 PLUS STUDENTS GATHER ON SEPT. 30 TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL GEAR UP DAY

**** Event Headliner is Celebrity Nick Cannon and Performers from NCredible Entertainment ****

What: [Nick Cannon](#) and [NCredible Entertainment](#) will kick off [National GEAR UP Day](#) at [Santa Ana College \(SAC\)](#) to promote the importance of college attendance and academic achievement among more than 400 intermediate and high school students from the [Santa Ana Unified School District \(SAUSD\)](#). SAC and SAUSD, in concert with the [University of California at Irvine \(UCI\)](#), [Latino Health Access](#) and the [Delhi Community Center](#), form the [Santa Ana GEAR UP Partnership](#), which has reached more than 20,000 students since 1999 at six intermediate and four high schools with critical messages and resources to urge academic scholarship, high school graduation and increase the college-going rate from our community.

The event will include an inspirational address by **Nick Cannon**, whose personal mission includes inspiring teens to pursue their dreams and obtain an education. His presentation will be followed by a live performance featuring NCredible Entertainment and other celebrities.

- 10:00 a.m. Opening remarks by Erlinda J. Martinez, Ed.D., president, SAC; Raúl Rodríguez, Ph.D., chancellor, Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD); Larry Labrado, president, of the RSCCD Board of Trustees; and Jane Russo, superintendent, SAUSD.

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National GEAR UP Day
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- 10:10 a.m. **Hector Garza**, Ed.D., international president, [National Council for Community and Educational Partnerships](#)
- 10:13 a.m. **Annetta Bryant**, president, [Reign & Associates](#)
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Recognition for Nick Cannon as the national GEAR UP spokesperson and GEAR UP champion.
- 10:15 a.m. Inspirational remarks by **Nick Cannon**
- 10:30 a.m. Performances by **NCredible Entertainment**
- 11:00 a.m. Campus tours provided for students by the SAC student ambassadors and [Padres Promotores](#), bilingual parents who canvass local neighborhoods sharing information to help parents support their children with homework, goal setting and early college preparation.

When/Where:

**Thursday, September 30
10:00-11:00 a.m.**

Phillips Hall (the theatre faces Bristol St.; located south of the intersection of 17th and Bristol St.) ([View campus map](#))

Santa Ana College
1530 W. 17th St. ([Map/Directions](#))
Santa Ana

Parking: The designated parking area for media is Visitor Lot #3, located at the front of campus (lot faces 17th St.). ([View campus map](#))

Media Interviews/Check in Media representatives should check in and receive a media kit in room P-105 by 9:30 a.m. Please bring press credentials. Pre-event interviews will also be coordinated at that time.

Day of event

Contact info: If you have questions the morning of the event, please contact Laurie Weidner via cell or text at (714) 813-6479 or Judy Iannaccone by cell or text at (714) 222-4777.

Who:

- Actor, comedian and producer **Nick Cannon**, who is currently the host of [America's Got Talent](#), will deliver an inspirational address to students as a celebrity spokesperson for National GEAR UP. Cannon produced an
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inspirational video in partnership with [National Council for Community and Educational Partnerships](#) called *16 Summers*, which urges parents to help their children succeed in school. The video is widely used in schools nationwide to motivate and inspire parents.

- **400 students from Carr and McFadden Intermediate and Century and Valley High Schools.**
- Padres Promotores – parents from the SAUSD who are trained as parent ambassadors to share information in the community, educating parents about college admission, financial aid and other education-related topics.
- **Santa Ana GEAR UP Partnership partners.**
- **National Council for Community and Education Partnerships.**
- **Reign & Associates.**
- **NCredible Entertainment** performers.

Why: The Santa Ana Partnership focuses on students' math and English language achievement, college awareness and preparation, and parents' college knowledge. The Partnership is currently supported by two \$800,000 federal GEAR UP grants. Because of the Partnership's success in raising student achievement and promoting college attendance, it was selected as the site for this kick-off event which is being staged to celebrate the achievements of National GEAR UP and promote the continued collaboration with the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships in Washington D.C.

Achievements:

SAUSD is the 6th largest K-12 school district in the state, serving roughly 54,000 students of which 95% are Latino, 60% are English Language learners, and 80% live at or near the poverty level qualifying for free or reduced priced meals. The district is ranked as the number one port of entry for English Language learners new to the U.S. statewide.

Thanks to the work of the Santa Ana Partnership, 78% of all graduating seniors from the SAUSD go onto to attend college, while the average college attendance rate statewide is 51%. The Partnership attributes this success to a host of on-campus strategies and parent engagement efforts to bolster math and English language achievement, college awareness, and parent awareness and engagement.

About 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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