



NEWS RELEASE

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June 6, 2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Orange County SBDC Celebrates 20th Anniversary on June 22 at RSCCD

(Santa Ana)—Since its “birth” in 1991, the Orange County Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has focused on one thing only---growing Orange County’s economy one small business at a time. When the Orange County SBDC first opened, it resided in a small corner of the Santa Ana College library and had one part-time consultant. Today this economic development program of Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) occupies a suite of offices on the second floor of 2323 N. Broadway in Santa Ana. The Orange County SBDC now employs a full-time director and associate director, 10 business consultants, plus two full-time support personnel.

“The Orange County Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is an integral part of the Rancho Santiago Community College District. Through the SBDC, our district is able to provide a range of services to small businesses and fledgling entrepreneurs in Orange County and beyond. Everyone in the district is proud of the many accomplishments and continued progress and expansion of the Orange County SBDC,” says Raúl Rodríguez, Ph.D., RSCCD chancellor.

The community is invited to celebrate the Orange County SBDC’s 20th Anniversary at a reception on Wednesday, June 22 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Rancho Santiago Community College District Offices, 2323 N. Broadway, Room 107, Santa Ana, CA 92706. Small business owners are invited to attend the networking event to get acquainted with the Orange County SBDC business consultants, community leaders, and like-minded business owners, and enjoy light refreshments.

“The Orange County Small Business Development Center has helped us tremendously. In fact, they are almost a part of our company. They have helped us grow since day one,” says Socorro De La Riva, De La Riva Construction.

The Orange County SBDC has a lot to celebrate, including:

- Opening its first satellite center serving the business communities of North Orange County and hosted by the Brea Chamber of Commerce;
- The formation of the Supplier Development Council by the Orange County SBDC in late 2010 to assist corporations and government agencies meet their goals of contracting with small and minority-owned businesses;
- In 2006, 2008, and 2010, the Orange County SBDC was the recipient of the technical assistance grant from Wells Fargo Foundation supporting outreach to and business support services the Vietnamese small business community;

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- In 2010, Wells Fargo provided a grant so Orange County SBDC could increase its support of the Hispanic small business community;
- For the past three years, the Orange County SBDC has been a strong partner in delivering assistance to young entrepreneurs through RSCCD's the Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP); and
- Since 2001, the Orange County SBDC has helped create 218 new businesses, 1,701.5 new jobs, helped retain 1,025 jobs, helped increase sales countywide by more than \$92.6 million, helped its clients access \$51.7 million in business capital, counseled 6,673 clients, provided 41,187 hours of business counseling, and training for 23,247 small business owners.

“Since its inception, the Orange County SBDC has positively impacted the lives of thousands of current and prospective small business owners in Orange County. At a time when grant funding has been particularly tight, we’re pleased to see our partners at the Orange County SBDC not only reach this important milestone, but to reach it and expand to additional locations and add new services,” says J. Adalberto Quijada, district director of the Santa Ana District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Please RSVP attendance at the reception by June 17 by calling (714) 564-5200 or visiting www.ocsbdc.com/events/registration_20th.asp.

“It is a privilege to have the opportunity to respond to the ever-changing needs of Orange County’s entrepreneurial business community. As we celebrate this major milestone, we acknowledge our partners in particular the U.S. Small Business Administration; California State University, Fullerton; Rancho Santiago Community College District; the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office and Wells Fargo Foundation. Their long-term support of our program has made it possible for us to serve the business community and to grow Orange County’s economy...one small business at a time,” says Leila Mozaffari, Orange County SBDC director.

About the Orange County Small Business Development Center

The Orange County Small Business Development Center (Orange County SBDC), an economic development program of Rancho Santiago Community College District, is partially supported by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the California State University, Fullerton and the California Community College Chancellor’s Office. The Orange County SBDC is a one-stop source for business planning, business development, international business resources, education and training, loan assistance and expansion strategies.

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