



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Santa Ana College President Attends U.S. Department of Education Think Tank on College Completion Jan. 30 in Washington, DC**

(Santa Ana)—Erlinda Martinez, Ed.D., president of Santa Ana College (SAC), has been invited to attend a one-day symposium on college completion on Monday, Jan. 30, in Washington DC. Martinez will join 23 higher education leaders, 16 well-known researchers, and eight policy experts to identify evidence-based best practices that work to increase college completion. Education Secretary Arne Duncan will address the gathering and ask participants to think about innovative, affordable ways to substantially boost college completion.

In recent years, Santa Ana College has been recognized for innovative measures that increase student retention and college completion. They include:

- [Freshman Experience](#): The program, which helps students learn how to study, take notes, manage time, and take exams, has resulted in a college completion rate of 82 percent for its participants. The statewide Academic Senate for Community Colleges selected SAC's *Freshmen Experience* to receive its Exemplary Program Award as an outstanding community college program of 2011-2012.
- [Santa Ana ¡Adelante!](#): The initiative guarantees that all Santa Ana Unified School District students who graduate from high school, enroll at SAC, and complete all academic requirements and application paperwork will be admitted as transfer students to California State University, Fullerton or to University of California, Irvine. Recently, the Lumina Foundation provided a total of \$600,000 over a four-year period to help fund the Santa Ana ¡Adelante! program.
- [Santa Ana Partnership](#): The partnership dates back to 1982, when the institutional members of the partnership first gathered to jointly analyze barriers to student success in the Santa Ana area. More recently, community-based initiatives including [Padres Promotores](#) have encouraged college entrance and completion.
- According to *Community College Week*, SAC ranks 25<sup>th</sup> among the top 100 associate degree

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producers for “total minority” students in the nation. In addition, among the top 100 associate degree producers nationwide, SAC ranks 13<sup>th</sup> for Hispanic students and 20<sup>th</sup> for Asian American students.

The symposium, “Evidence-Action-Innovation: A College Completion Symposium,” will approach increasing college completion rates as a multifaceted challenge. The areas of greatest focus on Jan. 30 will include:

- Supporting students’ early academic transitions, including bridge programs, learning communities, and acceleration models
- The student supports of advising, coaching, and mentoring

Martinez, one of 26 Latina community college presidents in the nation, was named president of SAC in 2005. Prior to taking the helm of the 97-year-old institution, she served as vice president for student services/assistant superintendent for Cerritos College in Norwalk. Before that, she was administrative dean and dean of students for Mission College in Santa Clara. She holds a doctorate in education from the University of Southern California, a master’s degree in counselor education from California State University, Los Angeles, and a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of California in Riverside.

**About Santa Ana College**

*Santa Ana College (SAC), which will turn 100 years old in 2015, serves about 18,000 students each semester at its main campus in Santa Ana. The college prepares students for transfer to four-year institutions, provides invaluable workforce training, and customized training for business and industry. In addition, another 13,000 students are served through the college’s School of Continuing Education located at Centennial Education Center. Ranked as one of the nation’s top two-year colleges awarding associate degrees to Latino and Asian students, the college is also recognized throughout the state for its comprehensive workforce training programs for nurses, firefighters, law enforcement and other medical personnel. SAC is one of two comprehensive colleges under the auspices of the Rancho Santiago Community College District. Visit <http://www.sac.edu> to learn more.*

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