



# NEWS RELEASE

**Contact:** Judy Iannaccone  
Director, Communications  
**Phone:** (714) 480-7503  
**E-mail:** iannaccone\_judy@rscsd.org

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Alfonso Bustamante Exemplifies Excellence as EOPS/CARE Counselor at Santiago Canyon College**

(Santa Ana)—A native of Santa Ana and a son of two immigrant parents, Alfonso Bustamante is a role model for many. In addition to being an adjunct faculty member and an Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) counselor at Santiago Canyon College (SCC), he is currently a captain in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, a core adjunct faculty member at National University in San Diego, a contract instructor/consultant for the County of Orange Health Care Agency, a pediatric psychologist at Children’s Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) and a commissioner for the City of Santa Ana’s Historic Resources Commission.

“I’ve been teaching for about 10 years now and the most rewarding aspect of my teaching career is to see my former students becoming colleagues,” said Bustamante.

Bustamante’s work in SCC’s EOPS program, which is state-funded and provides special support services to students who are educationally and economically disadvantaged, consists of student outreach and recruitment, orientation to college, counseling, assessment, access to community resources and financial aid assistance. He also regularly teaches “Career/Life Planning & Personal Exploration,” a course that helps students in determining their majors and career choices.

“I often comment to my students that I would have been every college counselor's worst nightmare because I switched majors so often,” said Bustamante. “Because I changed directions so often, I can relate to those students who are in the same situation today.”

As a captain in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, Bustamante serves as a commissioned officer in the Biomedical Science Corps, 752 Medical Squadron, and is also a wing coordinator for the suicide and violence prevention program. He is responsible for training 5,000 to 6,000 personnel in the program. Bustamante provided logistical support at Mildenhall Air Force Base in England during Operation Desert Storm and attended community college while in the military.

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Bustamante’s experience and research in education puts him in a unique position to tie education into therapy as a pediatric psychologist at CHOC.

“I believe that my clinical background allows me to create a ‘therapeutic alliance’ with students,” he said. “Because the EOPS students face additional barriers to success, it can be challenging to coax motivation and inspiration from them and it's very rewarding to watch the inspiration manifest itself into action.”

Bustamante holds a doctorate degree in clinical psychology with a multicultural community clinical emphasis from the California School of Professional Psychology, Los Angeles. He conducted his doctoral research on the unique experience of U.S. born Mexican-Americans examining their acculturation and ethnic identity development. He holds two master’s degrees, one with an emphasis in clinical psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology and one with an emphasis in marriage, family, and child counseling from National University. He holds a bachelor’s degree in behavioral science from National University. Bustamante is also a California Board of Psychology licensed psychologist.

Bustamante has previously worked as an adjunct faculty member at Alliant International University, as a consultant for the County of Los Angeles, Department of Children and Family Services, and as an instructor/facilitator for the National Training Systems Institute. He has also worked as a clinical psychologist at the Multicultural Counseling Center of Orange County, the County of Orange Health Care Agency and at Latino Psychological and Social Services in the Santa Ana Children’s Clinic.

In addition to Bustamante’s many other accomplishments, he is a member of the American Psychological Association and the National Honor Society in Psychology.

**About the Rancho Santiago Community College District**

*Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College are public community colleges of the Rancho Santiago Community College District, which serves the residents of Anaheim Hills, 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, and customized training for business and industry.*

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