



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Santiago Canyon College Receives \$3.23 Million U.S. Department of Education Grant to Increase Student Success *College Will Encourage Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Majors*

(Santa Ana)—Santiago Canyon College (SCC) recently received a \$3.23-million Title V grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The Title V grant program helps eligible institutions of higher education enhance and expand their capacity to serve Hispanic and low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen academic quality. The grants are awarded to colleges and universities that serve Hispanic students.

In fall 2010, SCC's enrollment included 33 percent Latino students, 42 percent Caucasian, 8 percent Asian, 2 percent Filipino, 2 percent African-American, 1 percent Native American, 3 percent other, and 9 percent declined to state.

SCC's five-year grant is designed to help more students succeed in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). More specifically, the grant aims to establish a Science Learning Center, supplemental instruction for difficult math and science courses, and a new engineering degree program. The grant will also support student success by strengthening the college's ability to assess student learning outcomes to improve teaching and learning.

"This grant represents an important step forward for Santiago Canyon College, and I'm excited about the opportunities it creates," said SCC President Juan Vázquez. "The grant will complement our new Science Center and improve our ability to serve students in the STEM fields through innovative curriculum and learning design."

According to a Tomás Rivera Policy Institute report, "STEM Professions: Opportunities and Challenges for Latinos," The number of U.S.-trained STEM professionals is insufficient to meet the nation's needs, given current higher education enrollment and graduation rates. In addition, the diversity in race/ethnicity of the country is not reflected in the ranks of STEM professionals. Demographic trends reinforce this shortage and indicate that an increasing number

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of STEM professionals will soon be retiring.

Santiago Canyon College plans to use its Title V grant for the following:

- Hiring a part-time STEM counselor to implement innovative advising to support currently enrolled STEM students
- Increasing the number of freshman students interested STEM fields
- Retaining and transferring STEM majors
- Establishing a Science Learning Center with faculty developed activities, tutors, and materials
- Providing science and math supplemental instruction opportunities for students in historically difficult classes
- Establishing a new A.S. degree in engineering
- Establishing the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment to support faculty in the collection and analysis of data to increase student success
- Providing ongoing training, coaching, and mentoring for faculty to integrate student learning outcomes assessment into programs and courses

For more information on STEM majors at Santiago Canyon College, contact Grant Coordinator Mary McMullin at (714) 628-4824.

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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