



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Judy Iannaccone
Director, Communications
Phone: (714) 480-7503
e-mail: iannaccone_judy@rscdd.edu

May 2, 2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Four Distinguished Alumni to Be Inducted into Santa Ana College Hall of Fame

(Santa Ana)—Four distinguished alumni will be inducted into the 2011 Santa Ana College Hall of Fame sponsored by the Santa Ana College Foundation in ceremonies being held in the college's Phillips Hall at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 20.

The 2011 inductees are Jessica J. Alabi, Ph.D. (class of 1997); Stephen Ray Delgadillo (class of 1984); Ignacio Muñiz (class of 1994) and James H. Nguyen, M.D. (class of 1998).

Every spring, the foundation invites alumni, students, faculty, staff and members of the community to nominate persons who have graduated from Santa Ana College or completed a minimum of 30 units of coursework and who have documented distinction and achievement through personal and/or professional efforts since leaving Santa Ana College. Recipients also are expected to attend the awards ceremony.

The selection committee is composed of college staff, students, foundation board members and previous Hall of Fame award recipients. Winners are notified, presented, and formally inducted at a special ceremony and at the college's annual commencement ceremony.

Jessica Alabi, a tenured assistant professor at Orange Coast College in the Department of Sociology and Gender Studies, has demonstrated strong commitment to the development and success of youth through teaching, research and publishing. Her passion for community service that was ignited at Santa Ana College as president of the Black Student Union led her to the social sciences and community advocacy and she has pursued that passion throughout her personal and professional career. She is one of the few scholars conducting empirical research on hip hop culture, and its impact on urban youth. She is the founder and director of The Hip Hop University, a grassroots community, research-based organization which seeks to empower urban youth through history, culture and community.

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As president and C.E.O. of International Healthcare Professionals, Inc., Steve Delgadillo is focused on developing relationships to build infrastructure and capacity to help meet the demand for cross-cultural health care service delivery to underserved populations.

He cites one example, “The highest suicide rate occurs among military veterans – approximately 18 per day – and data indicates that a large percentage are Latino/a.

“We know that psychological counseling is most effective when the provider and recipient have shared cultural backgrounds, yet there is only one culturally-compatible psychologist to serve the Latino/a population in the Veteran Integration Services Network 22, which serves six Veteran Administration hospitals and 29 community clinics in Southern California and Southern Nevada. We need to facilitate hiring more culturally compatible psychologists who are competent to serve this population.”

Ignacio Muñiz was eight years old and spoke no English when he and his family arrived in this country in 1980. Years of hard work and cultural adjustment lay ahead to prepare him for the opportunities that would ultimately lead to his life's work.

His experiences at Santa Ana College included volunteer tutoring at a local elementary school which caused him to change his major from architecture to education when he transferred to the University of Southern California.

Upon graduation, he returned to Santa Ana to begin his teaching career at Lathrop Intermediate School, his alma mater. After teaching for several years and sharing his experiences with others, he decided that he could serve more students as an administrator. Today he is principal at McFadden Intermediate School.

On January 11, 2011, James H. Nguyen, M.D., was the cardiologist on call when U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords and 19 others were brought to the University Medical Center in Tucson, AZ, following the shooting in a shopping center where Rep. Giffords was making an appearance.

Nguyen responded with all the talent and skills he had developed since he was 12 years old when Pete Maddox, then president of the Rancho Santiago Community College District Board of Trustees, helped him transfer from middle school to Santa Ana College.

“James knew he wanted to be a cardiologist and to cure heart disease. And he was willing to risk failure to get started,” Maddox says.

He graduated Santa Ana College in 1998 at age 14 and the University of California,

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Irvine, two years later. In 2006 he received his Doctor of Medicine degree from St. George's University. His career has continued on this steep trajectory toward success, broadened to include research that has been presented in award-winning papers. Today, he is a fellow in the Department of Cardiology at the University Medical Center in Tucson.

About Santa Ana College

Part of Rancho Santiago Community College District, Santa Ana College serves nearly 35,000 credit and non-credit students each semester and offers 136 certificate and associate degree programs. This 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 serves 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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