

2012 DR. JOHN W. RICE DIVERSITY AND EQUITY AWARDS

July 9-10, 2012

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Presentation: Scott Himmelstein, President, Board of Governors
Manuel Baca, Vice President, Board of Governors
Jack Scott, Chancellor, California Community Colleges

Item 7.1

Issue

This item honors former Board of Governors member Dr. John W. Rice and recognizes this year's three recipients for the 2012 John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Awards. Joining the board will be special guest Mrs. Clara Rice, Dr. Julian Nava, and others.

Background

The Dr. John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award was established in 2001 to honor a community college staff member, district, college, or program that has made the greatest contribution towards faculty and staff diversity or student equity.

This award is named in honor of former Board of Governors member Dr. John W. Rice. He served on the board from 1992-2000 and was a leader, innovator, and spokesperson for equal employment opportunity and nondiscrimination in the California Community Colleges. This award is named in his behalf as a testament to his strong commitment to faculty and staff diversity, student equity, and his strong support for a multicultural learning experience for all students.

This marks the 12th annual *Dr. John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Awards*. The previous 25 award winners are: 2001 George Ow, Jr. from Cabrillo College; 2002 Dr. Brenda Flywithhawks from Santa Rosa Junior College and Pam Chao from American River College; 2003 Dr. Dibaker Barua from Golden West College and Cabrillo Advancement Program from Cabrillo College; 2004 Dr. Nadine Hata from El Camino College and President Ernest Moreno from East Los Angeles College, and Standing Guard Project from Sierra College; 2005 Charles West from Bakersfield College and Abel Nunez from Taft College; 2006 Don Dorsey from Foothill College, Diversity Action Council from Evergreen Valley College, and Student Equity Program from Riverside Community College District; 2007 Digital Bridge Academy from Cabrillo College and Respect, Integrity, and Self Determination through Education (RISE) Program from Sacramento City College; 2008 Neelam Canto-Lugo from Yuba Community College District and Freshman Seminar from Cosumnes River College; 2009 Early Start Program from Los Angeles Valley College, Cultural Democracy Initiative from Sacramento City College; 2010 Transition to Independent Living Program from Taft College and Elaine Moore from El Camino College; and 2011 Mr. Ignacio Ponce and The Veterans Support Program (Ms. Magdalena

Torres) both from Santa Barbara City College and Dr. Lisa Aguilera Lawrenson from American River College.

All of the past and present Dr. John W. Rice Awards and ceremony expenses have been generously supported by the Foundation for California Community Colleges. Each recipient will receive our signature commemorative award.

The following individuals nominated the three recipients: Dr. William Watson, Director of Spark Point at Skyline College; Marsha Wright, EOPS/CARE/CalWORKS, Director from Santa Barbara City College; and Linda Beam, Executive Dean of Human Resources from College of Marin. Faculty and staff from the California Community Colleges and the Chancellor's Office staff served on the selection committee. There were many nominees and the decision was difficult but the three recipients clearly demonstrated an outstanding achievement in diversity and/or student equity.

As our system continues to grow, it is important to understand diversity as an issue of representation and progress. Demographically, we are serving the most diverse student population in the history of California's community colleges. Learning to facilitate the needs of our emerging student body through staff training and professional development increases the probability that our students will be successful. With this commitment and the tireless efforts of our administrators, faculty, staff, and students, we can make progress on the vision that Dr. John W. Rice saw for the California Community Colleges. This year's recipients represent an important combination of strategies that express our resolve to both faculty and staff diversity and student equity and success.

THE 2012 AWARD WINNERS

The following is a short description of the award winners and some of their highlighted diversity or equity accomplishments which are summarized or taken directly from their nomination form and additional information received:

SparkPoint from Skyline College:

Skyline College became the first college in California to host a SparkPoint Center, called **SparkPoint at Skyline College**. Modeled on the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Centers for Working Families, SparkPoint is part of a regional United Way of the Bay Area network of financial education one-stop service centers. Students and other members of the community utilize SparkPoint services and resources to achieve financial self-sufficiency. Fully integrated within the institution, SparkPoint features Financial Coaches who function like personal trainers for financial fitness. Over 1200 people have benefitted this year with services that include: the development of a budget, credit report repair, access to matched savings and checking accounts, 34 \$2000 scholarships, support accessing public benefits, and even an on-site food pantry. Recognized as **2011 College Innovator of the Year** by MDC and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and featured nationally on the Discovery Channel,

SparkPoint now works with the Center for Law and Social Policy in Washington, D.C., to increase benefits utilization for college completion.

Other accomplishments include:

Faculty launched the English Language Institute within SparkPoint to reach English learners whose personal circumstances would not have allowed academic success.

Business Division faculty work with the SparkPoint to host an Income Tax Assistance Center staffed by students who receive accounting course credit and Internal Revenue Service certification.

Career Center, Financial Aid, EOPS, TRIO, DSPS, Psychological Services, Career Advancement Academies and other Learning Communities, and the Health Center integrate with SparkPoint services.

Over 200 people have begun financial coaching.

Students completed 204 income tax returns yielding a return to the community of \$185,256.

Skyline College was one of six colleges selected nationally to participate in a planning grant hosted by the Center for Law and Social Policy in Washington, D.C., the American Association of Community Colleges, The Ford Foundation, The Lumina Foundation and the Open Society Foundations. Planning has resulted in a proposal to demonstrate a project to increase public benefits utilization among eligible students in order to improve college completion.

For Skyline College to be the first college in California to provide this service for students and their families is a point of pride for our organization. To do this during one of the worse budget crises in California history is an extraordinary example of a vision so driven by values of social justice and equity such that in crises, we did not cower, but worked harder than ever to ensure institutional effectiveness in serving our community.

EOPS Transitions Program from Santa Barbara College:

Santa Barbara City College's Transitions Program deals exclusively with recently released convicted felons or those on probation or parole. Part of the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services at Santa Barbara City College and modeled after the successful summer bridge program for graduated high school students, the Transitions Program helps approximately 30 former inmates each summer change their lives forever by providing access to higher education, creating a smooth transition from prison to college, and initiating ongoing dialogue between the college and the community such as through partnerships with the South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs. Through support groups and education, the Transitions Program assists individuals on parole or probation to re-integrate into society by pursuing their goal of beginning or continuing their educational plans

whether they seek occupational certificates, associate degrees or transfer to four-year universities. The Transitions Program is experiencing tremendous success with an 82 percent persistence rate and tremendous individual personal successes from program participants. The program has received national recognition from Harvard University's School of Education and colleges in Washington and Oregon have inquired about using the Transitions Program as a model.

Other accomplishments include:

Recently, two students from the Transitions program have successfully discharged parole, achieved over 3.75 GPAs, and hired as tutors within the Gateway to Success program and initiative: reinforcing how education influenced the possibility of gaining employment.

In 2011, a number of Transitions students were invited to the Santa Barbara City College Faculty In-Service. There, students shared their experiences and needs at the college as students previously incarcerated or currently on parole. As a result, the campus has embraced this population and shared their academic success.

Transitions students speak to youth currently on probation or within juvenile institutions. Usually, youth are inspired by Transitions students and their current path to academic success.

"...students learn academic and social skills that were previously ignored and necessary to prepare, retain, and educate this unique population."

"...students are exposed to strategies for change and success, resulting in high-levels of inspiration and motivation."

Because of the Transitions program at Santa Barbara City College, there have been positive advances and progress within the campus climate and community perspectives. The college and community have engaged in dialogue regarding the academic, social, and economic needs of a population often ignored by academic and community institutions.

Because of these students' social experience, students are able to identify and experience an increased level of motivation to succeed academically.

A2MEND in the California Community Colleges:

"The African American Male Educational Network and Development (A² MEND) organization was established to support and promote African American male academic achievement within community college. A² MEND's goals include supporting African American men in their career development, advancement, and success as community college administrators and students. Acting as a resource to access the experience and expertise of others across the system, this association is dedicated to providing mentorships, financial resources, and

professional development experiences. A²MEND seeks to use scholarly and professional expertise to foster institutional change with the California community college system.

Other accomplishments include:

A²MEND has successfully hosted 5 annual summits geared specifically to bring together African American males in the collegiate setting.

A²MEND's 2012 African American Male Summit had over **three hundred (300)** registered participants.

A²MEND has successfully launched a mentor program (10 mentees in 2012).

In 2012, A²MEND awarded over \$3,000 in scholarships to provide mentees with financial support for tuition, books, and living expenses. The mentees, the scholarship recipients, and members of the community were honored at the summit award dinner.

A²MEND is unique to the California Community College System as a grass-roots organization serving the unique needs of the male African American community college student, faculty, staff, and administrators. These men serve as role models, mentors, friends, and confidants to a historically underrepresented population through their dedication, passion, and hard work.

A²MEND recently hosted an inaugural scholarship/awards dinner during their summit honoring members of the community, students, college presidents and others who have made a significant impact on improving the educational conditions of African American males.

A²MEND instituted a Mentor Program pairing mentees with experienced community college professionals to provide support, guidance, and networking opportunities for students enrolled within our system. The mentors are committed to the personal development and academic success of the African American male mentee, including personal and professional development programs and social activities offered throughout the year. The program is intended to assist students with clarifying their educational and career goals, support their pursuits, and maintaining positive, professional relationships to increase the retention and persistence of these young men.

Conclusion

The Board of Governors, Foundation for California Community Colleges, Mrs. Clara Rice, dignitaries, and guests will gather to honor former board member Dr. John W. Rice and recognize the following twelfth annual awardees: SparkPoint, EOPS Transitions Program, and A²MEND.

Staff: Tosh Shikasho, Retired Specialist for Equal Employment Opportunity