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**Celebrate "By the Light of Lanterns" at the Eleventh Annual Chancellor's Ball on October 24**

*Rancho Santiago Community College District's Chancellor's Ball "By the Light of Lanterns" is slated for Friday, October 24. The black tie optional gala raises funds for student scholarships and programs at Santa Ana and Santiago Canyon colleges.*

SANTA ANA, CA, October 15, 2008 **/24-7PressRelease/** -- A distinctly Asian flavor will add spirit to the eleventh annual Rancho Santiago Community College District's Chancellor's Ball on Friday, October 24. This year's event features silent and live auctions, exquisite cuisine, and the music of SOTO. "By the Light of Lanterns" continues with performances by Soka Gakkai International Taiko Drummers, the Bat Nha dragon dance, the Trúc Lâm Vietnamese Buddhist Youth Association, and the Santiago Canyon College Chorus.

Guests for the black tie optional gala will arrive at The Disneyland Hotel Grand Ballroom, 1150 Magic Way in Anaheim, in time to enjoy the 6:00 p.m. reception and silent auction. After enjoying dinner, entertainment, and bidding in the "Buy the Book" live auction providing textbook scholarships, guests will dance to the Latin-Funk-R&B sounds of SOTO. Suzie Suh, general assignment reporter with the Orange County Bureau of CBS2/KCAL9 News, serves as the event's mistress of ceremonies.

"As many of our students struggle to continue their higher education in these difficult economic times, we invite the community to join us for an evening that supports student successes and honors our Partners in Education," said Edward Hernandez, Jr., Ed.D., Rancho Santiago Community College District's chancellor.

A highlight of the 2008 Chancellor's Ball will be the presentation of the Partners in Education Awards, the Chancellor's Award, and the Manager of the Year Award. The Partners in Education honorees are the California Land Surveyors Association; Jane Russo, superintendent, Santa Ana Unified School District; and Wells Fargo. The Partners in Education are honored for their unwavering support of the Rancho Santiago Community College District, Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College.

The Manager of the Year Award will be presented posthumously to Richard Bridges, former associate dean of public safety and fire technology at Santa Ana College. Bridges began his firefighting career in Indio about 40 years ago and went on to serve as fire chief for 18 years in National City, Daily City, Redondo Beach, and Santa Monica. In 1997, he was appointed as director of Santa Ana College's fire technology program helping it gain local, regional and national acclaim. Bonita "Bonnie" Jaros, Santa Ana College professor of English/ESL, will be honored with the Chancellor's Award for her lifelong commitment to education on her leadership in the district-wide and college accreditation process.

Reservations are available for \$200 per person; sponsorships range from \$2,000 to \$15,000. For more information, contact (714) 480-7450 or visit [www.chancellorsball.org](http://www.chancellorsball.org). The 2008 Chancellor's Ball sponsors include SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union; Seville Construction, Inc.; and Bank of the West.

**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. For more information, visit [www.rsccd.org](http://www.rsccd.org).