

## ACCCA Recognizes Community College Leaders

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The Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA) has named the winners of five statewide awards for outstanding achievement and service to community colleges. The awards ceremony will be held on February 18 at ACCCA's annual conference in San Diego.

The **2009 Mertes Award for Excellence in Community College Research** will go to two winners this year: Rachel Rosenthal, vice president of instruction at Sierra College; and the team of Willard Hom, Alice Von Ommeren, Catherine Liddicoat and LeAnn Fong-Batkin of the Research & Planning Division of the State Chancellor's Office. Both winners will receive the recognition and a \$500 prize from the Mertes Scholarship Research Fund.

Rosenthal was honored for her research entitled "*Those Who Would Not Serve: Factors Influencing Community College Faculty Member Interest in Applying for Administrative Positions.*" The study helped to determine which aspects of entry-level administrative positions serve as incentives and disincentives for full-time faculty members considering applying for an administrative position.

The team from the State Chancellor's Office earned recognition with a pair of submissions – "*Peer Grouping: The Refinement of Performance Indicators*" and "*Developing Service Area Indices for Your Community College: California's Method and Experience.*" The research provides the Governor's Office, the Legislature and voters with a fair method to evaluate the specific missions of community colleges.

Other nominees for the Mertes Award included Stu Van Horn, Monica Flores-Pactol, and Sabrina Sanders.

ACCCA awarded the **2009 Harry Buttimer Distinguished Administrator Award** to Dr. Helen Benjamin, Chancellor, Contra Costa CCD. In honor of the late Harry Buttimer, this award recognizes a community college CEO for demonstrating integrity, principle, compassion, strength in leadership and contributions to colleagues, the profession, the college and the community.

In addition to Benjamin, nominees for the Harry Buttimer Distinguished Administrator Award included Dr. Mark Drummond, chancellor of Los Angeles CCD, Dr. Martha Kanter, chancellor of Foothill DeAnza CCD, and Dr. Frank Gornick, chancellor of West Hills CCD.

The **2009 Leadership Award for Administrative Excellence** was presented to Randal Lawson, CIO and executive vice president of Santa Monica CCD. This award honors a mid-level administrator whose commitment to the profession stands out among peers, demonstrating creativity, innovation and commitment. Lawson works tirelessly to improve California Community Colleges and is well respected for his contributions both at his college and at the state level. In addition to serving as an important leader in the state CIO organization, he actively represents the perspective of instructional administrators in the development of policy at the state level. Ricardo Perez, vice president of student services at Glendale CCD, was also nominated for the award.

The **2009 Award for Progress in Diversity** went to Rosa Perez, chancellor of San Jose Evergreen CCD. This award recognizes the outstanding achievements of individuals and organizations in their efforts to expand the concept of diversity in the wider higher education community. Perez has earned a reputation over the past 36 years as an innovator and advocate for diversity and equity across California. She champions equity and social justice in higher education and works tirelessly to promote diversity, community partnerships and fairness for all students.

## **ACCCA**

ACCCA (Association of California Community College Administrators) is the foremost member-supported professional organization for administrators and managers of California's 109 community college campuses. ACCCA provides insurance benefits, publications, professional development opportunities, business partnerships, advocacy, counseling and assistance to over 1200 fulltime administrators, associate members, affiliates and corporate members. For more information on ACCCA, visit the website at [www.accca.com](http://www.accca.com) or call (916) 443-3559.

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