



PRESS RELEASE

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**Heavy Hitters Turn Out in Support of the California Community Colleges
Dr. John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Awards**
Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is joined by state and local leaders

Sacramento, Calif. – Joining the California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott and members of the Board of Governors, former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice gathered with education leaders, industry chiefs and students in Sacramento today on the 10th anniversary of the Dr. John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award ceremony. All were together in support of a common goal – honoring programs and staff that demonstrate a commitment to maintaining and recognizing the important role community colleges play in providing educational opportunities to all Californians. The annual award promotes diversity at the community colleges and is named for Rice's late father, a former member of the Board of Governors.

The 2010 award was presented to the Taft College [Transition to Independent Living Program](#) that helps integrate disabled students into campus life and to Elaine Moore, a founder of the El Camino College [Project Success](#) program that seeks to improve academic performance and graduation rates of inner city students transitioning to college.

"I would like to congratulate the winners from Taft and El Camino College. These wonderful programs foster what my father stood for," said Condoleezza Rice. "My father taught me that you can come from humble beginnings and do great things if you have an education. Nothing captured his imagination, passion and attention more than the California Community Colleges and the time he served as a member of the Board of Governors."

Having been born to a Presbyterian pastor in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and living through years of segregation and the civil rights era, Dr. Rice was passionate about ensuring the California Community Colleges staff, faculty and student body reflected the diversity of California. The award, given two individuals or programs, celebrates the profound impact Dr. Rice continues to have on the system. He served on the board from 1992 to 2000.

"Dr. Rice made it his mission to make sure every person who could achieve would get the help they needed to succeed," said Chancellor Scott. "Today's award winners are a testament to the fact that Dr. Rice's ideals live on. He would be proud to see the diversity in our system. Our colleges mirror the diversity of California. After all, we are the college of the open door."

In addition to Rice and Scott, other speakers and special guests at the event included Dr. Rice's widow Mrs. Clara Rice, Board of Governors President Debbie Malumed, President and CEO of the Foundation for California

Community Colleges Paul Lanning, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell, The Sacramento Bee Publisher Cheryl Elbright Dell and, Sacramento Business Journal Publisher Joanna Wessman.

Clara Rice, Dr. Rice's widow, attended the event and warmly recalled the memory of her late husband. "I called John my 'gentle giant' not only because of his size but because of his enormous passion for equity and diversity." She went on to say, "I'm sure he's looking down today and smiling as he sees us gathered here to celebrate these programs, people and students with his daughter and me present."

"Community colleges give all Californians an equal opportunity," said Board of Governors for the California Community Colleges President Debbie Malumed. "I am proud to be affiliated with the largest system of higher education in the nation. We serve people from all walks of life and make their higher education goals a reality."

The [California Community Colleges](#) is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.89 million students per year. The system is also the largest provider of workforce training in the nation. Nearly 25 percent of all the community college students nationwide are enrolled in a California community college. The Chancellor's Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

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THE 2010 DR. JOHN W. RICE AWARD WINNERS

The *Transition to Independent Living Program* at [Taft College](#) exemplifies the ideas of equity and diversity through the integration of students with disabilities into campus life. It is the only residential community college program in the state that serves students with autism and intellectual disabilities. Students come from communities throughout California with unique demographic backgrounds which also adds to the campus diversity.

The *Transition to Independent Living Program* has gained national and international recognition based on the successful outcomes these students have achieved upon their completion of the program. Eighty-nine percent of the students complete the two year program and of those students, 95 percent live independently and 89 percent are employed.

Ms. Elaine Moore is one of the founders of the *Project Success* program located at El Camino College. *Project Success* is dedicated to increasing the academic performance and graduation rates of inner city students transitioning to college. Her dedication to equity and diversity has helped El Camino College produce higher rates of African-American students who transfer to a [California State University](#) or [University of California](#), more than at any other California community college. Moore succeeds by promoting student centered learning and multicultural faculty, staff and peer mentoring.

Elaine is an accomplished faculty member and community leader. Her efforts and dedication on behalf of *Project Success* have produced academic and student support services partnerships that have contributed to El Camino College's ranking as number six among the California Community Colleges that graduate African-American students with associate degrees.

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES DIVERSITY AND EQUITY INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS -

California Community Colleges Students by Ethnicity for 2008-09 (percentages rounded-up to nearest whole number)

❖ African-American	8% of total headcount
❖ American Indian/Alaskan Native	1% of total headcount
❖ Asian	12% of total headcount
❖ Filipino	3% of total headcount
❖ Hispanic	30% of total headcount
❖ Pacific Islander	1% of total headcount
❖ Unknown/Nonrespondent	13% of total headcount
❖ White	34% of total headcount

California Community Colleges Students by Gender for 2008-09

❖ Female	1,562,597
❖ Male	1,297,46
❖ Unknown	42,141

Diversity Information -

- ❖ California's personal income will decline by 11% by the year 2020 unless the state increases the number of Latinos who attend college.
- ❖ The Los Angeles Community College District educates almost three times as many Latino students and nearly four times as many African-American students as all of the UC campuses combined.
- ❖ Nearly a quarter of all Chicanas and Chicanos who receive doctorates first attend a community college.
- ❖ In California, 75 out of every 1,000 members of the state's population attended a community college in 2007-08.

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