



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

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Annual Dr. John W. Rice Award Given to a Program and an Employee Exemplifying Diversity and Equity within the California Community Colleges

Los Angeles Community College District's Project MATCH and Napa Valley College's Greg Miraglia are winners

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The 13th Annual Dr. John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award ceremony was held today at The Sterling Hotel in Sacramento and honored a community college district program and the efforts of a Napa Valley College that have help serve underrepresented constituencies and create student equity.

Named after the former member of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors, the 2013 Dr. John W. Rice Award was given to Los Angeles Community College District's Project MATCH, an internship program for community college faculty, and Napa Valley College's Greg Miraglia, who created hate crimes training programs and a safer environment on his campus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) students.

"This year's winners highlight the wide variety of support services available to our students, faculty and administrators," said Manuel Baca, president of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors.

"California is the most diverse state in the country and these types of programs and the type of staff, faculty and administrators our system employees reflect that diversity. The efforts made to give back and foster that diversity and student equity make me so proud of our winners and the California Community Colleges."

The award is named in honor of Dr. John W. Rice who served on the board from 1992 until his death in 2000. He was a leader, innovator and spokesperson for equal employment opportunity and nondiscrimination in the California Community Colleges. While on the board, Dr. Rice also displayed a strong commitment to multicultural learning experiences for all students. The Dr. John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award was established in 2001 to honor community college staff members, districts, colleges or programs that have made the greatest contribution towards faculty and staff diversity or student equity.

Born to a Presbyterian pastor in Baton Rouge, La. 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 and that support services were available to help them succeed. He is the father of former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

About the Winners:**LACCD – Project MATCH**

Project MATCH, whose acronym stands for “Mentors Act To Change History,” is an internship program in the Los Angeles Community College District dedicated to preparing and recruiting a diverse community college faculty sensitive to the needs of the students and community it serves. The goals of the program are to improve the diversity pool of faculty in the district, for the interns to become role models reflecting that diversity in the district and to better reflect the diversity of the community around the largest community college district in the United States. Over 22 years, Project MATCH has brought highly qualified professionals from diverse backgrounds and work experiences into the community college system. Project MATCH has more than 500 intern graduates who are now trained to teach in any of California’s 112 community colleges.

In 2012, and again in 2013, interns represented 27 disciplines, especially in the much-needed areas such as English, math, health, physics, chemistry, nursing and computer science. The project’s interns reflect a change in the traditional face of some departments. The district reports that the project has male counseling and nursing interns, female engineer and physics interns, and interns who have disabilities.

Greg Miraglia - Napa Valley College

The dean of Career Technical Education at Napa Valley College, Greg Miraglia has made a significant and lasting impact in hate crimes training and education on his campus as well as on the state and national levels since 2001. His contributions include creating and teaching the first hate crimes investigations certificate and continuing leadership in bringing cultural diversity training for California law enforcement training programs. Miraglia is a founding member of the Napa Valley College Bias Incidence Response Team; a board member of the Matthew Shepard Foundation; a member of the United States Attorney General’s Northern Division Hate Crimes Task Force and has authored two books, “American Heroes Coming Out From Behind the Badge” and “Coming Out From Behind the Badge.”

At Napa Valley College, Miraglia worked to bring the “Laramie Project” and “Laramie Project: 10 years Later” plays to the campus. Miraglia also created an expansive hate crime education program that feature community-wide programs and annual education campaigns for Napa Valley College and developed the first LGBT class at Napa Valley College and the first LGBT certificate in the California Community Colleges. He’s also created a Safe Space program that has created a safe environment on the campus to promote student success.

Miraglia is helping Napa Valley College develop a 32-hour Cultural Diversity Training program to support diversity trainers throughout California, including those teaching at community college police academy programs. The program will be the first of its kind in California.

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.6 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills education and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor’s Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges, please visit <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/>.