



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

MEDIA ADVISORY

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California Community Colleges Board of Governors to Hold Annual Dr. John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award Ceremony on Tuesday, July 10

A²MEND, SparkPoint at Skyline College and Transitions Program Santa Barbara City College are winners

- ❖ **Who:** California Community Colleges Chancellor [Jack Scott](#)
California Community Colleges Board of Governors President [Scott Himmelstein](#)
Professor Emeritus [Dr. Julian Nava](#), former U.S. ambassador to Mexico
Mrs. Clara Rice, widow of Dr. John W. Rice
- ❖ **What:** This year marks the 12th anniversary of the Dr. John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Awards. The awards will be presented to the SparkPoint program at Skyline College, the Transitions program at Santa Barbara City College and the A²MEND organization that operates on several California community colleges campuses.
- ❖ **When & Where:** **Tuesday, July 10, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.**
Sterling Hotel, Ballroom, [1300 H St.](#), Sacramento, Calif. 95814
- ❖ **Why:** 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.

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. While on the board, Dr. Rice also displayed a strong commitment to multicultural learning experiences for all students.

- ❖ **Visuals:** Mrs. Clara Rice, Dr. Rice's widow, and Dr. Julian Nava, a former U.S. ambassador to Mexico and a California Community Colleges alumnus, will be special guest speakers at the ceremony. Students from the three award-winning programs will speak at the event.
- ❖ **About the Winners:** [SparkPoint](#) at Skyline College 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 San Bruno community utilize SparkPoint services and resources to become financially self-sufficient. SparkPoint

features financial coaches who function like personal trainers for financial fitness. More than 1,200 people have benefitted this year from SparkPoint services that include budget development, credit repair, access to matched savings and checking accounts, scholarships and even an on-site food pantry. Thirty-four \$2,000 scholarships were awarded in 2011 through SparkPoint's Grove Scholarship Program for students who commit to a series of financial coaching sessions.

Santa Barbara City College's [Transitions Program](#) deals exclusively with recently released convicted felons or those on probation or parole. The Transitions Program helps approximately 30 former inmates each summer change their lives by providing access to higher education and creating a smooth transition from prison to college. Part of the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services at Santa Barbara City College and modeled after the highly successful Summer Bridge Program, the initiative 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 to obtain an occupational certificate, associate degree or to transfer to a four-year university. The Transitions Program has an 82 percent persistence rate and has received national recognition from Harvard University's School of Education. Colleges in Washington and Oregon have inquired about using the Transitions Program as a model.

[A²MEND](#) supports African American men in their career development, advancement and success as community college students, faculty, staff and administrators by sharing the experience and expertise of other successful African American men across the system. The Bernardino-based program does this by hosting summits that bring together students and administrators. The 2012 summit had more than 300 participants. The program also provides mentorships, scholarships and professional development opportunities, and encourages change within the California Community Colleges by creating an affirming academic and professional environment. In 2012, A²MEND awarded more than \$3,000 in scholarships and the mentorship program had 10 mentees. One of the most significant contributions of this organization is its dedication to taking on the issue of educational success for young black males and its continued work to close the achievement gap that exists in the system.

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/>.

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