

2006 CCCAOE AWARD RECIPIENTS

The mission of CCCAOE is to provide leadership for occupational education and economic development professionals involved in workplace development and the enhancement of California's position within a global economy.

Excellence in Teaching

Michael Pierini, Culinary Arts – Cerritos College



Michael Pierini's most prized accomplishment is his passion for student success. Despite working with a large number of students, each student receives individualized attention and Michael demonstrates an uncanny ability to understand unique personalities, needs and talents and knows how to reach and bring out the best in each of his students. His students connect with him as they become excited about learning and discover that the kitchen is an arena for both structured techniques and artistic creativity. Michael employed innovative approaches to redesign a dining program to emulate a high quality production kitchen in a resort, club, or five-star hotel setting. Enrollment has increased 1233 per cent in the Baking & Pastry Program and 88 per cent in the Chef Program under Michael's direction over the past four years. His students enter highly competitive industry competitions and enjoy a 99 per cent placement rate in high quality establishments within the industry. Teaching excellence as demonstrated by Michael Pierini is one of the hallmarks of the California Community Colleges.

Teaching Nominees

Dave Melendy, Cuesta College

Omid Pourzanjani, Golden West College



Excellence in Leadership

Julie Benavides, Faculty, Family, Child & Education Department – East Los Angeles College



Julie Benavides is a faculty leader within her department and a catalyst for change at East Los Angeles College. Julie employed innovative approaches to initiate many partnerships that would mutually benefit the East Los Angeles Child, Family and Education students and the community. She initiated many community partnerships and was instrumental on campus in changing the perspective of the academic programs by advocating at many of the campus committees the important role of vocational programs and by demonstrating the benefits for the students and the community. In particular, Julie coordinated Saturday classes with the non-credit program to offer ESL classes on the weekend to meet the needs and respond to the request of an external child care organization. She created Sunday classes for Chinese day-care providers and weekend classes for Spanish speaking family child care providers. Additionally, Julie obtained additional revenues to implement comprehensive projects to meet student and community child-care training needs. And finally, Julie implemented a yearly strategic

planning process based on student surveys, faculty dialogue sessions and partner input. Our students and community benefit from having faculty leaders like Julie on our campuses.

Leadership Nominees

Dave Lannom, Mt. San Antonio College

Ed Knudson, Bakersfield College

Ann Marie Kopeikin, Santa Barbara City College

Bruce Maule, College of San Mateo

Denise Rudy, Palomar College

Scott Steidinger, Golden West College



Excellence in Partnership

**Automotive Technology Alternative Fuels Program,
Valley Power Systems in partnership with Automotive Technology Alternative Fuels Program,
Rio Hondo College.**



Valley Power Systems, Inc. initiated a joint venture with Rio Hondo College to develop a training program for a high demand occupation in the transportation industry: high-end alternative fuel medium-heavy duty automotive technicians. They accurately predicted a great need would develop within Southern California and beyond for skilled technicians to develop the technical skills required to perform maintenance and repairs of high-tech, computerized medium-heavy duty systems and components to serve a skyrocketing number of alternatively fueled medium-heavy duty vehicles. Valley Power Systems forged a partnership to meet this need and committed the necessary human and monetary resources to ensure a successful partnership. They

have sent representatives to sit on the college advisory committee and have invited Rio Hondo College representatives to be a facilitator at corporate team meetings. They committed over \$450,000 in matching contributions as well as making their training facility available for use by program partners. The partnership includes development of state-of-the-art curriculum that meets industry standards and student needs, distance education, student internships, and training of incumbent workers, new employees, and community college faculty. Additionally, the partnership has developed a recruitment plan that targets unemployed, underemployed, current students, and special populations. This alliance has all the components of a successful partnership.

Partnership Nominees

Workplace Learning Resource Center, Oxnard College,

in partnership with **County of Ventura Human Resource Agency**

Infant & Toddler Teacher Institute, Los Angeles Valley College,

in partnership with **Children First, Inc.**

Adult and Elder Care Program, Long Beach City College,

in partnership with **American Care Givers, LLC**



CCCAOE Legislator Award

Assemblyman John Laird, 27st State Assembly District



Elected in 2002, and re-elected in 2004, Assembly member John Laird represents the 27th State Assembly District, which includes portions of Santa Cruz, Monterey and Santa Clara Counties. Prior to being elected to the Assembly, Assembly member Laird served two terms on the Santa Cruz City Council, two terms as Mayor, and eight years as a Cabrillo College Trustee.

In his first term in the Assembly, Mr. Laird was one of only five first-term members to chair a major policy committee - the Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee. He also served as chair of the Special Committee on State Mandates. At the start of his second term, Mr. Laird was tapped by Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez to join the Assembly leadership team as chair of the Budget Committee. In his role as Budget

Committee Chair, Mr. Laird helped deliver the first on-time budget vote in years - a budget with increased funding for seniors, transportation, education and environmental protection. Along with the Budget Committee, he also serves as a member of several standing committees, including Labor and Employment, Judiciary, and Natural Resources.

Mr. Laird's legislative package includes a broad range of bills relating to environmental protection, education, transportation, water policy, insurance, civil rights, labor and employment, and consumer protection. In 2005, he authored bills signed by the governor on a variety of issues including Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta levee disaster planning; funding for community college health centers; civil rights protections; assistance for first-time homebuyers; and access to nutrition programs for schoolchildren.

Raised in Vallejo and educated in Vallejo public schools, Mr. Laird's parents were both educators. He graduated from UCSC's Adlai Stevenson College.

