

## 2007 CCCAOE AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

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

Patricia Combes-Brighton's passion for teaching Architecture is best demonstrated by the following quote: "The most thrilling part of teaching is seeing 'the lights go on' and the dedication of a student who is committed to becoming an architect." The classroom environment she creates helps students to hone their technological skills along with their creative design skills. She constantly challenges her students to critique their own work and she utilizes "Jury Critiques" from working professionals to help prepare students for working in architectural or other design firms. Her approach to education is highly collaborative in that she works with business and industry partners as well as other academic departments on campus to provide the most well-rounded, challenging, workforce-based curriculum. Her own professional experience working with companies such as Warner Brothers and Walt Disney Imagineering means that she can impart to her students not only the technical knowledge they need but also the real-world application of that information. With a retention rate that averages 98 percent, East Los Angeles College is fortunate to have an instructor like Patricia to call their own.



**Patricia Combes-Brighton,**  
Faculty~Architecture Department –  
East Los Angeles College



### Excellence in Leadership



**Joann Denning,**  
Faculty~Multimedia Program – Diablo Valley College

One of Joann Denning's strengths is her ability to articulate a vision for her program and then make it a reality. A multimedia faculty member at Diablo Valley College, Joann has not only revised her curriculum numerous times to be as current and interdisciplinary as possible, she has also worked diligently to make as many classes as possible transferable to UC and CSU. While she understands her program's role in the economic and workforce development mission of the California Community Colleges, she also believes that her students' may have greater success in their professional lives if they can ultimately earn a bachelor's degree. Her strong leadership of the multimedia program also includes her work on both an SB 70 and an industry-driven regional collaborative grant. This IDRC includes, among other activities, working with the Contra Costa Small Business Development Center to create and facilitate a student internship website. Joann's efforts and accomplishments clearly demonstrate that under Joann's leadership, anything is possible.



### Excellence in Partnership



**Wathen Foundation** in partnership with San Bernardino Valley College Aeronautics Department & Air Travel Career Advisory Committee

The winners of this award demonstrate the power of partnership, with each partner invested in the sum of its parts. The San Bernardino Valley College Aeronautics/Air Travel Career Advisory Committee, under the faculty leadership of Allen Moore along with industry professional Dr. Arthur Peterson, has consistently looked to its industry partners for input and donations of materials and equipment. The Wathen Foundation headed by Tom Wathen, who is the owner of Flabob Airport, has been actively involved with the Advisory Committee as a way to promote aviation education, especially to high school-aged students. Eagles Peak Charter School Inland Empire (EPCSIE), a recipient of a \$772,014 Tech Prep grant to provide high school juniors and seniors with aeronautics courses and a link to the community college, has also been an active member of this advisory committee. Lastly, Consolidated Aircraft Coatings has offered both internships for students at all levels and instructional materials. The end result is not only a revitalized aeronautics and travel careers program at San Bernardino Valley College, it also has resulted in the SBVC Aeronautics program moving to a new 40,000 square foot facility at Flabob Airport. All members of this partnership are winners, as are the students who will be served by this excellent program.



## CCCAOE Legislator of the Year



**Denise Moreno Ducheny, 40<sup>th</sup> California State Senate District**

Denise Moreno Ducheny has served in the California State Senate since November 5, 2002, representing the 40th District which includes portions of San Diego and Riverside Counties and all of Imperial County. Senator Ducheny chairs the Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review and is Vice Chair of the Committee on Agriculture. She also chairs the Senate Select Committee on California-Mexico Cooperation. Prior to her election to the California State Senate, Senator Ducheny served in the California State Assembly from 1994-2000 and on the San Diego Community College Board from 1990-94. Ms. Ducheny holds a BA in History from Pomona College and a Juris Doctorate from Southwestern University School of Law.