

**2009 ASSOCIATIONS ADVANCE
AMERICA AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

5.1

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Presentation: Lance Izumi, President, Board of Governors
Jack Scott, Chancellor, California Community Colleges

Issue

This item acknowledges the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) receipt of an *Award of Excellence* in the first round of *2009 Association Advance America Awards* program, a national competition sponsored by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) and the Center for Association Leadership, Washington, D.C.

Background

Each year ASAE and the Center for Association Leadership recognizes the very best programs and initiatives that help illustrate the important public benefits derived from association activities. Now in its 19th year, the prestigious *Associations Advance America Awards* program recognizes associations that propel America forward—with innovative projects in education, skills training, standards-setting, business and social innovation, knowledge creation, citizenship, and community services. Although association activities have a powerful impact on everyday life, they often go unnoticed by the general public.

The Academic Senate received the award for its work on the Basic Skills Initiative (BSI), a statewide professional development effort designed to increase student success in English as Second Language (ESL) and basic skills. Funded through the Chancellor's Office professional development grant for ESL and basic skills, the Basic Skills Initiative is the largest organized project to address the developmental education needs in the nation, working with all 110 California community colleges across the state and directly involving over 1,000 faculty, administrators, and staff. The initiative is faculty-driven, drawing on the expertise of the Academic Senate's members and colleagues, and seeks to bring about institutional change in order to increase student success for thousands of basic skills students.

Through the professional development grant, the Academic Senate shares literature reviews and other information with the colleges. Information sharing and training, conducted through numerous workshops and institutes, provide colleges with real examples and strategies for implementing their action plans, with particular focus on integration of instruction and student

services when serving students who need one/more courses in ESL and basic skills. To this end, these events assist colleges with curriculum design and alignment across the disciplines, data interpretation and collection, course coding, teaching strategies and methods of instructional delivery using instructional technologies, and effective strategies for helping students successfully transition from high school, particularly underprepared and diverse students. In addition, many workshops are offered at the request of colleges to meet specific local needs.

While the Senate received this *Award of Excellence* for its work, the BSI program is now in the running to receive a *Summit Award* to be presented in ceremonies at *ASAE's 10th Annual Summit Awards Dinner* at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. on September 29, 2009.

Conclusion

The Academic Senate will be recognized by the Board of Governors for receiving the *Associations Advance America Award of Excellence*.