

# Dr. John W. Rice Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

**California Community Colleges  
Celebrating 21 Years of Inspiration**



California Community Colleges



FOUNDATION *for* CALIFORNIA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES



## 2021 Diversity and Equity Award Merritt College

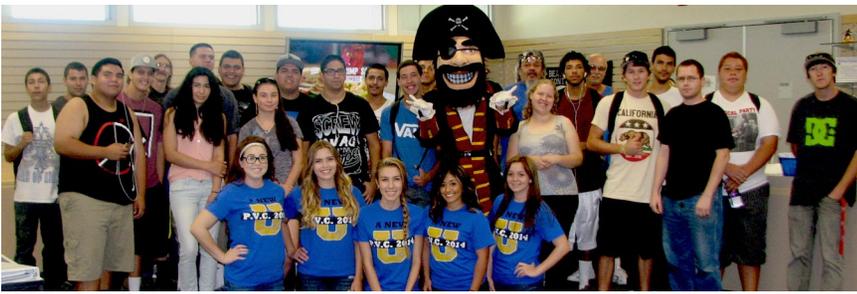
Merritt College embraced the multiple measures movement earlier than most and before AB 705 was implemented. The college's willingness to be innovative and forward-thinking is driven by the demographics of the college and a determination to get students to where they need to be. Basic skills courses were all but eliminated. A redesigned curriculum includes concomitant courses for students in transfer-level classes to augment their grasp of the subject at hand. Merritt College also was somewhat unique in its heavy investment of resources into student support, embedded tutors, retention specialists and the campus Learning Center. Merritt College also recommitted itself to the Puente, First Year Experience, and Sankofa-Umoja programs, assigning a full-time manager to oversee the learning communities and build a pervasive spirit and culture of family. The result: Merritt College saw an equity gap reduction of 22.5% in transfer-level English and a 7.9% equity gap reduction in math for combined equity gap reduction of 15.2%.

"Culture means everything," said Merritt College President David Johnson, who praised professional staff and the Academic Senate, in addition to the ongoing "courageous conversations" addressing biases that have persisted among some at the campus.



## 2021 Student Success Award Barstow Community College

A vibrant Teaching and Learning Support Center. Faculty led workshops. Enhanced Math and writing tutoring. Improved early alert tracking. All have enhanced the student experience at Barstow Community College while boosting student success rates. It wasn't long ago that most Barstow Community College students began their higher education in below transfer-level math and English. In the fall of 2016, for example, Barstow was offering 24 below transfer-level English sections. In 2019, that number fell to just one section and Barstow hasn't offered a below transfer-level English section since. The numbers are similar for math; Barstow Community College was offering 16 below transfer-level math classes in the fall of 2018, but has not offered any remedial courses since. As a result, Barstow Community College has seen a 34.9% increase in students completing transfer-level math and a 23.1% increase in students completing transfer-level English for an overall increase of 29% of students completing transfer-level courses within one year of their first attempt. Much of the credit goes to Barstow's Teaching and Learning Support Center, which offers free tutoring, walk-in help for assignments, tutor-led study groups, faculty-led academic workshops and open computer labs.



### **2021 Honorable Mention, Diversity and Equity Award Palo Verde College**

When you work hard, you see the results. That's the mantra at Palo Verde College, which is closing equity gaps by focusing on supporting students as they jump into transfer-level math and English classes and helping them rise to the challenge through a holistic approach that includes DSPS, EOPS, tutoring, counseling, food distribution and more. That thinking led to a 21.2% equity gap reduction in transfer-level mathematics courses and a 19.7% equity gap reduction in transfer-level English courses for a combined equity gap reduction of 20.5%. Other highlights include embedded tutoring and Summer Bridge, the latter of which plays a critical role in ensuring first-year students are prepared for transfer-level courses. Palo Verde also is seeing the results of its outreach to the undocumented community in promoting its ESL program to build confidence in enrolling in transfer-level courses.



### **2021 Honorable Mention, Student Success East Los Angeles College**

East Los Angeles College – where approximately 90% of students are students of color and approximately 80% are LatinX – realized an equity gap reduction of 23.3% in English and a 10.2% gap reduction in math for a combined equity

gap reduction of 16.7%. East Los Angeles College embarked in remedial education reform long before AB 705 was adopted and has been among the leaders in advocating for the California Community Colleges' Vision for Success and adopting Guided Pathways. To help ensure success, the college provides first-year students with a wide range of programs to help with their transition and students enrolled in college-level math and English have access to supplemental instruction and embedded tutoring. East Los Angeles College and its outreach ambassadors partner with three dozen high schools and more than a dozen middle schools through an approach that includes an emphasis on dual enrollment opportunities.



### **2021 Honorable Mention, Student Success Woodland Community College**

At Woodland Community College, it's all about equity, equity and equity. And that begins with outreach to middle school students in an effort to introduce them early to what a college education can mean, then continues through high school dual-enrollment opportunities and includes myriad support programs at Woodland Community College. The college has a full-time counselor focused on helping students transfer to a four-year college or university, and its comprehensive approach includes a full-time behavioral health therapist, increased mental health services, the Woodland Community College Promise program and efforts such as TRIO, MESA, EOPS and CalWORKS. As a result, Woodland Community College saw a 35.4% improvement in students completing transfer-level math and a 32.6% increase in students completing transfer-level English for an overall improvement of 34%. Woodland is also putting an emphasis on diversity in the college's hiring practice; virtually all recent hires have been from communities of color.

## About the Awards

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. *In 2019, the Dr. John W. Rice Award expanded to two categories – **Diversity and Equity** and **Student Success**. Winners are selected for demonstrating great strides in moving the diversity and equity needle forward and for showing great progress in improving student success at their campuses.*

This award is named in honor of former Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges member Dr. John W. Rice. He was a leader, innovator and spokesperson for equal employment opportunity and nondiscrimination in the largest system of higher education in the nation. While on the board, Dr. Rice also displayed a strong commitment to multicultural learning experiences for all students.

## A Lasting Legacy

The Reverend John Wesley Rice Jr. rose from the segregated South to become a minister and university leader. He was born November 3, 1923 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. After attending Stillman College, he earned a history degree in 1946 at Johnson C. Smith University in North Carolina, where he also later received his divinity degree.

Dr. Rice moved to Birmingham, Alabama to become the director of education at Westminster Presbyterian Church, which was founded by his father. He also worked as a public schools coach, teacher and counselor. During this time his only child, Condoleezza, was born.

In 1964, Dr. Rice moved his family to Tuscaloosa, Alabama to serve as dean of students at Stillman College. From 1969 to 1985, he was a professor and served as assistant vice chancellor at the University of Denver. Following the death of his first wife, Angelena, he moved to Palo Alto, California in 1985.

Dr. Rice held academic positions at Stanford University. In 1989, he married Clara Bailey, a school principal. He was appointed by Gov. Pete Wilson to the Board of Governors of

the California Community Colleges in 1992, and served on the board until his death in 2000.

To honor Dr. Rice's leadership and commitment to diversity and equity, the Board of Governors established the Dr. John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award. Now celebrating its 21st year, the award expands the legacy Dr. Rice began and represents our gratitude for the profound impact he continues to have on California's community colleges.

## Past Winners

- 2020 **College of Marin** – Diversity and Equity Award  
**Pasadena City College** – Student Success Award
- 2019 **Santa Barbara City College** – Diversity and Equity Award  
**Bakersfield College** – Student Success Award
- 2018 **Cuyamaca College** - Accelerated Pathways in English and Math  
**Santa Barbara City College** - Single Parents Arriving Ready for College (SPARC)
- 2017 **American River College** – Veterans Resource Center  
**El Camino College** - Formerly Incarcerated Students in Transition Program
- 2016 **Foothill College** - Family Engagement Institute  
**Saddleback College** - Veterans Education and Transition Services Program  
**Santa Monica College** - The Science and Research Initiative 'Chem Boot Camp'
- 2015 **Butte College** – Dr. Shahroukh Mistry  
**Orange Coast College** – Professor Robin A. O'Connor
- 2014 **Mt. San Antonio College** – Dr. Audrey Yamagata-Noji  
**Chaffey College** – Online to College Program
- 2013 **Los Angeles Community College District** – Project MATCH  
**Napa Valley College** – Greg Miraglia
- 2012 **Skyline College** – SparkPoint Financial Center  
**Santa Barbara City College** – Transitions Program  
**A2MEND** – Statewide African American Male Education Network & Development program
- 2011 **Santa Barbara City College** – Ignacio Ponce  
**Santa Barbara City College** – Magdalena Torres  
**American River College** – Dr. Lisa Aguilera Lawrenson
- 2010 **El Camino College** – Elaine Moore  
**Taft College** – Transition to Independent Living Program

- 2009 **Los Angeles Valley College** – Early Start Program  
**Sacramento City College** – Cultural Democracy Initiative
- 2008 **Yuba Community College District** – Neelam Canto-Lugo  
**Cosumnes River College** – CRC Freshman Seminar
- 2007 **Cabrillo College** – Digital Bridge Academy  
**Sacramento City College** – The RISE program
- 2006 **Foothill College** – Donald Dorsey  
**Evergreen Valley College** – Diversity Action Council  
**Riverside Community College District** – Student Equity Program
- 2005 **Bakersfield College** – Charles West  
**Taft College** – Abel Nunez
- 2004 **El Camino College** – Dr. Nadine Hata  
**East Los Angeles College** – Ernest Moreno  
**Sierra College** – The Standing Guard project
- 2003 **Golden West College** – Dr. Dibakar Barua  
**Cabrillo College** – Cabrillo Advancement Program
- 2002 **Santa Rosa Junior College** – Dr. Brenda Flyswithhawks  
**American River College** – Pam Chao
- 2001 **Cabrillo College** – George Ow, Jr.

## Vision for Success

Adopted in 2017, the California Community Colleges Vision for Success continues to be our system's guiding North Star. The Vision serves as a roadmap for our 116 colleges, clearly outlining goals and commitments to best serve our state and students.

Guided Pathways, the foundation of the Vision for Success, serves as the primary vehicle for achieving the goals to improve student outcomes and promote equity and economic mobility. The framework calls for clarity and connected, integrated support for students to help them achieve their higher education goals.

The Dr. John W. Rice Awards honor district or college programs or faculty who demonstrate a profound commitment to supporting student goals and needs, ultimately putting students first.

**The Dr. John W. Rice Diversity & Equity Awards are proudly sponsored by the Foundation for California Community Colleges.**