FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Los Rios Small-Business Advocate is a ‘State Star’

A Los Rios Community College District employee has won a regional honor for her commitment to helping northeastern Californians start, run and grow small businesses.

Clarissa Correa, the project administrator for the Small Business Development Center – Greater Sacramento/Sierra, has been selected as the 2013 State Star of the northeastern region of the California Small Business Development Center. The Small Business Development Center is part of the Workforce & Economic Development unit of the Los Rios district.

Correa is one of only six regional State Stars selected for California this year, and one of only 62 regional State Stars selected nationally.

"I am delighted to make this announcement, and to recognize Clarissa for her extraordinary contributions in support to small businesses in northeastern California," said Dan Ripke, regional director of the Northeastern California Small Business Development Center.

Ripke said Correa was selected for the honor for being "an outstanding performer, making a major contribution to the northeastern California SBDC program and showing a strong commitment to small businesses in the greater Sacramento area." Correa has been with the small business center since 2006.

Dan Throgmorton, Los Rios' associate vice chancellor for Workforce & Economic Development, said Correa's award "demonstrates the high quality of services available to our business clients. The support of small business growth is critical to the economic development of our region, and Clarissa's efforts ensure that our services are always top-quality."

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America’s Small Business Development Center Network is a partnership that unites private enterprise, government, higher education and local nonprofit economic development organizations.

It is the U.S. Small Business Administration’s largest partnership program for providing management and technical assistance to small business owners across the nation. With about 1,000 centers across the nation, the America’s network last year provided business consulting to approximately 200,000 clients, training for more than 400,000 attendees and other forms of management and technical assistance to approximately 600,000 small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Correa and the other State Stars will receive their awards in September at the 33rd annual America’s Small Business Development Center Network conference in Orlando, Fla.

About the Small Business Development Center – Greater Sacramento/Sierra

The center, a branch of the Los Rios district’s Workforce & Economic Development unit, assists existing businesses in becoming competitive in a complex marketplace and helps emerging entrepreneurs realize their dream of business ownership. The center provides one-on-one consulting, workshops and outreach programs in all aspects of business management. The center serves El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Sierra and south Yolo counties. For more information, go to www.sbdc.net.

About Los Rios

The Los Rios Community College District is one of the nation’s most respected learning institutions and the second-largest community college district in California, serving the greater Sacramento region. Los Rios includes: American River, Cosumnes River, Folsom Lake and Sacramento City colleges; five major education and outreach centers; and specialized workforce and economic development programs for regional businesses, governments and organizations. Los Rios colleges offer AA/AS degrees, certificates and transfer-education opportunities in more than 70 career fields. The district’s 2,400-square mile service area includes all of Sacramento and El Dorado counties and parts of Yolo, Placer and Solano counties. More than 80,000 students are enrolled in the four colleges. For more information, go to www.losrios.edu.

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