



Contact:
Mitchel Benson, (916) 568-3041
bensonm@losrios.edu
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Los Rios Community College District Honors Alumni, Philanthropists at 50th Anniversary Celebration

The Los Rios Community College District, the second-largest community college district in California, is celebrating 50 years of educating the greater Sacramento Region. Los Rios, which has educated more than 1.2 million students since its founding in 1965, is marking the occasion with a gala on Friday, October 23, at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento.

The celebration will honor Distinguished Alumni and Outstanding Philanthropists from each of the four Los Rios Colleges (American River, Cosumnes River, Folsom Lake and Sacramento City), all of whom represent the high quality of Los Rios students, alumni and supporters, and will help showcase the District's commitment to student success and a thriving regional economy.

"As a member of the Los Rios Foundation Board, I am very pleased that we are recognizing 50 years of Los Rios' community service and celebrating the achievements of outstanding alumni and donors to the college," said Marty Katz, event chair and Director of IT Projects & Applications with Platinum Sponsor SMUD. "We are very proud of their collective service to all the communities that Los Rios serves."

This year's honorees are:

2015 Distinguished Alumni

Dallas Braden, former pitcher, Oakland Athletics, and ESPN broadcast analyst
Scott Syphax, President & CEO, The Nehemiah Companies
Ryan Wood, Attorney, Stoel Rives LLP
Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice of California

2015 Outstanding Philanthropists

Fred and Molly Evangelisti, Professor, American River College; Director, McClatchy Company
Merrilee Lewis Engel, Former President, Cosumnes River College
Sevy and Neva Cimaroli, Entrepreneurs
Carol Forbes Spurgeon, Educator and Community Volunteer

2015 Distinguished Alumni

Dallas Braden American River College

Dallas Lee Braden is a Major League Baseball broadcast analyst and former big league pitcher who threw a perfect game for the Oakland Athletics. Braden made his major league debut with Oakland in 2007, where he went on to play five seasons. He tossed the 19th perfect game in Major League Baseball history, has appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated, was inducted into the Stockton Athletic Hall of Fame and was awarded the key to the city of Stockton. Braden now appears on ESPN's Baseball Tonight as a game analyst. He graduated from A.A. Stagg High School in Stockton and then American River College, where he earned all-conference honors both seasons he played for ARC. The Athletics drafted Braden out of Texas Tech University. He was the co-recipient of the 2009 Dave Stewart Community Service Award, which the A's award annually to a player for outstanding work in the community.

Scott Syphax Cosumnes River College

Scott Syphax is the chairman and CEO of The Nehemiah Companies, a Sacramento-based social enterprise and real estate development firm. As CEO of Nehemiah, he manages the Nehemiah Community Reinvestment Fund, which has leveraged more than \$880 million in projects to spur development in low-income and underserved communities, including funding down-payment assistance to help more than 320,000 families achieve their dream of homeownership. He is also an Emmy Award-winning and International Telly Award-winning talk show host and executive producer of Studio Sacramento, on PBS affiliate KVIE-TV in Sacramento. Syphax attended Cosumnes River College – and also took classes at Sacramento City College – before transferring to Sacramento State, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in business with an emphasis on real estate development and land use planning. He received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Drexel University.

Ryan Wood Folsom Lake College

Ryan Wood is a partner with Stoel Rives, LLP and practices in the firm's Real Estate and Construction group, focusing on construction and business litigation. In addition to his legal practice, Wood served in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserve from 1993 to 2013. During his military career, he deployed three times, including one deployment to the Al Anbar province of Iraq with the Navy Seabees in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Wood began at Folsom Lake College following his active-duty tour and went on to attend Sacramento State and the University of the Pacific McGeorge Law School. He is an adjunct law professor at McGeorge, where he teaches persuasive analytical strategies and skills to third-year law students. He serves as chairman of the board for the Youth Development Network, Inc., a regional nonprofit group that provides training and support to teachers and other youth mentors.

Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye
Sacramento City College

Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye was sworn into office on Jan. 3, 2011, as the 28th Chief Justice of California. She is the first Asian-Filipina American and the second woman to serve as the state's chief justice. At the time of her nomination, she had served more than 20 years on California trial and appellate courts. As leader of California's judicial branch of government and chair of the Judicial Council, Cantil-Sakauye has focused on improving the public's access to justice, building partnerships to lead the judicial branch out of the state's worst fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, and using ongoing self-assessment to improve the branch's efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability. Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye attended C. K. McClatchy High School and Sacramento City College before receiving her Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Davis, and then attending UC Davis's Martin Luther King, Jr., School of Law.

2015 Outstanding Philanthropists

Fred and Molly Evangelisti
American River College

Fred and Molly Evangelisti are passionate supporters of education and healthcare in the Sacramento region, and longtime friends of American River College. Molly served on the American River College Foundation board during the campus's capital campaign effort to construct a new Culinary Arts Building, and they provided the lead gift to the Oak Café to make this long-time vision of the college a reality. Fred, an alumnus of ARC, is a professor of electronics at American River College, where he teaches solar-energy electronics. Molly has been a director of The McClatchy Company since 1995. Before that, she was an educator, teaching elementary education in Australia and Sacramento. Molly, a fifth-generation member of the McClatchy family, is the daughter of Betty Maloney & J. Brown Maloney, great grandson of Sacramento Bee founder James McClatchy.

Merrilee Lewis Engel, Ph.D.
Cosumnes River College

Merrilee Lewis Engel served as president of Cosumnes River College from 1995 through 2003. In all her work, she focused on the success of students and was instrumental in curriculum revisions, research on student success and development of appropriate learning environments conducive to student success. She believed that everyone in the college, regardless of position, shared a responsibility for student access and success. Because of her particular interest in women in higher education, she often served as a mentor for other women. Engel continues to contribute to student success at the Cosumnes River College Foundation, where she has endowed several scholarships and is pioneering a new program to help encourage completion among CRC's students.

Sevy and Neva Cimaroli
Folsom Lake College

Neva and Sevy Cimaroli established a legacy of giving in their community, with major gifts spanning three decades to many deserving organizations in and around the city of Folsom. The husband and wife

of more than 60 years were exceptionally generous in their donations to Folsom Lake College before their passing, proving to be a singular force in enhancing the emerging campus. They provided a lead gift to Three Stages at Folsom Lake College, the 80,000 square foot \$50 million complex known today as the Harris Center for the Arts. The Harris Center's ticket office bears the Cimarolis' name, and they also purchased the Steinway piano that now stands on the recital hall stage. In addition, the couple supported student scholarships, senior citizens who endeavored to attend classes at Folsom Lake College, and several departments and special projects on campus.

Carol Forbes Spurgeon Sacramento City College

Carol Forbes Spurgeon is a lifelong educator and community leader. She graduated from C.K. McClatchy High School, and completed her history degree at Stanford University before becoming a high school History and English teacher. Her parents, George and Jean Forbes, met at Sacramento City College in the 1930s. When Spurgeon began considering ways to honor her parents and support young people, endowing a scholarship in her parents' name at Sacramento City College was an inspiring opportunity. The George S. and Jean Turpen Forbes Memorial Scholarship recognizes her parents' legacy and the important work of the college for 99 years. Today, Spurgeon serves on the Leadership Council at UC Davis Medical Center and is working with other Sacramento City College Foundation board members on the college's centennial celebration in 2016-17.

This event was made possible because of the generosity of our partners at Clark Pacific, Kaiser Permanente, SMUD, Diepenbrock Elkin LLP, Golden 1 Credit Union, and Safe Credit Union. For more information on the gala, please contact the Los Rios Foundation at foundation@losrios.edu or (916) 568-3075, or visit <http://foundation.losrios.edu/awards.php>

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; six 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 County, most of El Dorado County and parts of Yolo, Placer and Solano counties. More than 77,000 students are enrolled in the four Los Rios Colleges. For more information, go to www.losrios.edu.