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Los Rios District, Celebrating its 50th Anniversary, Inducted into Sac Metro Hall of Fame

SACRAMENTO – The Los Rios Community College District, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, has been inducted into the Sacramento Metro Chamber’s Business Hall of Fame, a recognition of the District’s commitment and value to the people and economy of the greater Sacramento region.

The District received the award Friday, Jan. 30 at the Sacramento Metro Chamber’s 120th annual dinner and business awards at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento. At the same ceremony, Erica Taylor, a member of the Los Rios Foundation Board, received the award for Young Professional of the Year. Taylor is vice president, communications and community relations director for Five Star Bank.

“We’re proud to accept this Business Hall of Fame Award from the Metro Chamber of Commerce,” Chancellor Brian King said in a video presented at the dinner. “It’s a great honor – and great timing! – as we begin to celebrate our District’s 50th anniversary in 2015. In that time, we’ve educated more than 1.2 million students.

“Along the way, we’ve partnered with many of you to help build a stronger economy for the Greater Sacramento area. Today, proud Los Rios graduates can be found in practically every business, industry and public agency across our thriving region.”

The District’s well-deserved reputation for partnership and collaboration across Sacramento and across the nation has bolstered its growth in academic excellence, the success of its students and its wise stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Indeed, the Los Rios District has grown dramatically in its size and economic impact since it was founded in 1965. In just the last 20 years, for example, enrollment has grown more than 56 percent, from about 49,200 students in fall 1995 to nearly 77,000 this past fall who study at one or more of Los Rios’ four colleges – American River, Cosumnes River, Folsom Lake and Sacramento City.

Put another way, today 79 out of every 1,000 Sacramento-area residents attends a Los Rios college. And those students are supported by a well-managed \$282 million budget and more than 2,860 FTE employees, including nearly 980 full-time faculty.

The District has two colleges that date back more than 50 years: American River College is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year and Sacramento City College is scheduled to celebrate its centennial next year, in 2016. But the Los Rios District as a legal entity dates to 1965.

At Friday night's dinner, the Sacramento Metro Chamber inducted the Los Rios District along with two others into its Business Hall of Fame: Dignity Health and Van Vleck Ranch. In all, the Hall of Fame now comprises 37 businesses. The Annual Dinner & Business Awards, first hosted in 1895, is the Sacramento Metro Chamber's longest running event. Today, the Chamber represents more than 2,000 of the premier businesses and business organizations employing nearly 180,000 workers in the six-county Sacramento region.

Taylor, the Young Professional of the Year, has served on the Los Rios Foundation Board for about a year. She also serves on the leadership council of Metro EDGE and serves on the board of directors of Sacramento Covered, NextED and the Sacramento Unified Education Foundation.

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. Nearly 77,000 students are enrolled in the four colleges. For more information, go to www.losrios.edu.