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Celebrate Paradise!

PVCC recognizes community partners and donors who support education

PHOENIX – November 8, 2012 - Paradise Valley Community College salutes the community leaders, givers and partners who support PVCC and excellence in education during the Annual "Celebrate Paradise!" Community Awards and Donor Recognition Reception on Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2012. Community partners, outstanding alumni and individual donors of the year will be honored during the reception from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Grayhawk Golf Club Fairway House, 8620 E. Thompson Peak Parkway, Scottsdale.

"Through their generous donations and partnerships, these valued individuals and organizations are instrumental in the growth of Paradise Valley Community College and its commitment to excellence in education," said PVCC President Dr. Paul Dale.

The 2012 honorees are:

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Outstanding Community Partner Award – Southwest Human Development

Southwest Human Development is a longstanding partner of PVCC's Early Childhood Education program. Ginger Ward is founder and CEO of the nonprofit agency, which provides early childhood development and disability services to give children a healthy foundation for an optimal start in life. SHD has sponsored PVCC's Power of Documentation exhibit and Infant Toddler Conferences. PVCC supported its Emerging Leaders project, a Helios Education Foundation Grant to develop early childhood leaders. The partnership offers community-based training for college credit and initiatives to make the Child Development Associate credential possible for more early childhood educators. PVCC students participate in these professional development opportunities and learn with local and national leaders in the field. This richness makes a significant difference in their personal and professional lives.

Outstanding Community Leader Award – Peggy Neely

Community leader/Realtor/businesswoman Peggy Neely, is being honored for her leadership, advocacy and efforts on behalf of PVCC over the years. The former Phoenix City Councilwoman has been an ardent supporter of the college and was instrumental in the passage of the MCCC bond in 2004. She is a long-term member of the Presidents Circle advisory council. She has opened many doors for PVCC in the local business community, and has been a link for the college's Athletics program to host national level soccer tournaments at the City's Reach 11 and Rose Mofford sports facilities.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARDS

Owen Anderson is a tenured associate professor of philosophy at Arizona State University, an author and speaker, a mentor for students and a community volunteer who values lifelong learning and positive social change through education. He has been an adjunct philosophy professor at PVCC, where he works

with the Philosophy Club and serves as a faculty advisor for PVCC transfer students who are initiating a philosophy club at ASU West. He attended PVCC in 1995-1996.

Robert Soza, Ph.D., received his doctorate from University of California-Berkeley and is English faculty at Mesa Community College, where he is a faculty senator and sponsor for Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA) students. He serves on numerous MCC and Maricopa Community Colleges committees as well as ASU's Los Diablos Scholarship Committee. Soza is committed to lifelong learning and creating educational relationships that inspire positive social change. Inclusivity and access are key principles that guide him as an educator. He attended PVCC in 1990-1991.

DONOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Joseph and May Winston Foundation and the **Scottsdale Foothills Rotary Club Foundation** are joint recipients of the community Donor of the Year Award for their generous philanthropic support in establishing the Scottsdale Foothills Rotary Club Foundation Scholarship for PVCC students through the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation.

Christopher Scinto, Ph.D., Fine and Performing Arts Division Chair at PVCC, is being recognized as employee Donor of the Year Award for his generous philanthropic support, gifts and personal leadership that enhance and promote the PVCC Fine and Performing Arts Scholarship through the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation. Last May this scholarship fund awarded \$2,000 each to three PVCC students for the 2012-2013 academic year.

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