

Cal State San Marcos Temecula  
Grand Opening  
Monday, March 9, 2009  
Paul Goldring Garrett Institute  
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

President Karen S. Haynes

I am so pleased that you could all join us to celebrate a milestone event for our university and our region.

Today, a wonderful history is repeating itself! If you hearken back to the beginning of Cal State San Marcos in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, you will see a daring launch of a CSU higher education presence in a young and vibrant community.

Now fast forward to the early 21<sup>st</sup> century – 18 months ago, to be precise – and you see another daring launch of a CSU higher education presence in another young and vibrant community!

In September 2007, a delegation of Temecula civic leaders headed by Mike Naggar and Chuck Washington came to us with a bold vision. They quickly laid out the plans and found the resources, including a lease-free facility for educational programs. And Southwest Healthcare System provided funding for nursing education to fill urgent regional needs.

Together, we forged a unique public/private partnership that emerged as a model for transforming a region through educational opportunity. In August 2008, less than a year after our initial talks, Cal State San Marcos in Temecula opened in this Paul Goldring Garrett Institute for Higher Learning.

Following in the footsteps of our main campus, our new off-campus branch has flourished with strong support from visionary leaders. It is providing educational access to students of all ages throughout Southwest Riverside County. And, thanks to the excellent work of our Extended Learning program, and particularly of Suzanne Lingold, this new center will offer high-quality curricula designed for the unique needs of this community.

The entire region is taking notice... and responding with applause and excitement! In mid-January, a Riverside Press-Enterprise article about our new branch proclaimed, quote: “Fancy that, people moving to Temecula to go to college ... Welcome to a new and better local world!” unquote.

And last month, in what has become an annual tradition at my “Report to the Community” address, I acted on the strong recommendation of my University Council and bestowed our 2009 Cal State San Marcos “Community Engagement” Award on the City of Temecula!

Councilman Mike Naggar was unable to attend because, ever the good citizen, he was serving jury duty. So Mayor Maryann Edwards and Councilman Chuck Washington came onstage to accept the award. Chuck summed up the spirit of this remarkable venture when he said, quote, “We want to be a university town. We like what that says about us!” unquote. And he added, quote, “Cal State San Marcos is not just our partner – you are our SOULMATE!” unquote.

Well, today’s formal ribbon-cutting ceremony makes it official: Temecula IS a university town! The people of Temecula can take great pride in belonging to a community that is a pioneer of 21<sup>st</sup>-century education. And they can look forward to reaping the benefits of increased opportunity and enhanced growth for many years to come.

And, of course, when they enter the doors of this Paul Goldring Garrett Institute for Higher Learning, they will feel grateful to our wonderful benefactors, the Garrett family, who believe passionately in the value of higher education and have put their name and their money where their hearts are.

And so, it is my great pleasure to officially welcome our new Temecula branch to the Cal State San Marcos campus family. We salute you on this magnificent launch, and we look forward to a very exciting future!