

## THE MERTES AWARD

Since 1997 ACCCA has honored the author(s) of a substantial research project that has significantly contributed to our understanding of the effectiveness of community colleges and higher education. The purpose of the Mertes Award is to acknowledge and honor outstanding research--either a dissertation or topic-specific project--on community colleges and encourage continued research on substantive issues facing higher and/or community colleges.

The recipient(s) of the award will be selected by a review committee of the ACCCA Board in consultation with a representative of the Research and Planning (RP) Group.

Following is the criteria for selection. Author(s) of research completed within the previous two years are eligible for the award. Nominations may be made by either the nominee's colleague(s) or by organizations. Individuals may also self-nominate. The nomination must include an abstract (1-2 pages) and executive summary (not more than 20 pages) of the research project. The committee may request additional information if needed.

The announcement of the award will be made at the conference during the awards banquet at the ACCCA Conference. The winner(s) will be presented with a certificate and a cash award of \$500 from the Mertes Award Fund. The research abstract will be published by ACCCA, and recipient(s) will have their name(s) engraved on the perpetual plaque kept at the ACCCA headquarters in Sacramento and displayed annually at the Conference.

- 2025 **Eric Felix**, Associate Professor, San Diego State University
- 2024 **Jennifer LaFlam**, Dean, Institutional Effectiveness & Innovation, American River College *"Exploring the Emotions of White Community College Administrators Around Race"*
- 2023 **Nan Ho**, Dean, Academic Services, Las Positas College
  - "Well-Being, Employee Effectiveness, and Organizational Support: Community College Administrators During the COVID-19 Pandemic"*
- 2022 **Vincenta Arrizon-Maffris**, Santa Monica CCD
- 2021 **No Award Presented**
- 2020 **Carla Martinez**, Dean of Students, Golden West College
- 2019 **No Award Presented**
- 2018 **Carlos O. Turner Cortez**, President, San Diego Continuing Education Center
- 2017 **No Award Presented**
- 2016 **No Award Presented**
- 2015 **3CSN**—The California Acceleration Project
- 2014 **John Hetts & Andrew Fuenmeyer**, Long Beach City College
- 2013 **No Award Presented**

2012 **No Award Presented**

2011 **Alice Van Ommeren**, Specialist, Information Systems and Analysis, CCCCO  
*"New Transfer Partners: CCCs and Private for-profit Four Year Institutions"*

2010 **No Award Presented**

2009 **Rachel Rosenthal**, Los Rios CCD  
*"Those who Would Not Serve: Factors Influencing CC Faculty Interest in Administrative Positions."*  
**Willard Hom; Alice Von Ommeren, Catherine Liddicoat and LeAnn Fong-Batkin**,  
CCCCO  
*"Peer Grouping: the Refinement of Performance Indicators" and "Developing Service Area Indices for Your Community College: California's Method and Experience."*

2008 **The RP Group**  
*"Basic Skills as a Foundation of Student Success in California Community Colleges"*

2007 **Mary Gallagher**, Vice President, Admin. Services, L.A. Southwest College  
*"Improving Institutional Effectiveness: The Relationship Between Assessing Student Learning Outcomes and Strategic Planning in California Community Colleges."*

2006 **Brad Phillips**, Executive Director, CalPASS, Grossmont Cuyamaca CCD

2005 **Martin Gartenlaub**, Initiative Director, San Bernardino CCD  
*"Adult Urban Community College Success: Identifying Factors that Predict Course Completion."*

2004 **Rita Cepeda**, Santa Ana College  
*"An Investigation of Critical Mass: the Role of Latino Representation in Retention of Urban Community College Students."*  
**Cristina Chiriboga**, Cuyamaca College  
*"An Evaluation Study of Community College Leadership Development Programs."*

2003 **No Award Presented**

2002 **Veronica Knott**, Los Medanos College  
*"CCC African-American Female Administrators: Perceptions on Why they Remain in Administration."*

2001 **Lisa S. Sugimoto**, Pasadena City College  
*"The Perceptions of CCC Governing Boards in the Selection of a CEO."*

2000 **William Armstrong**, San Diego CCD

1999 **No Award Presented**

1998 **Rita Mize, CCLC; Earl Mitchell**, Rancho Santiago CCD; and **Leonard Isaksen**, West LA College

1997 **Jack Frielander**, Santa Barbara City College  
*"Using Wage Data Records to Track Post-College Employment Rates and Wages of CCC Students."*