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Riverside named All American City in National Competition
by Lucia Ortega-Rodriguez

The place was Mobile, Alabama, June 20, 1998, the event was the All American Award Ceremony. Riverside Mayor, Ronald Loveridge and City Manager John Holmes each shared glances as they viewed the civic auditorium. It was similar to a national convention. Thirty spirit-filled cities from across the United States, over 3,000 citizens all in one room, shouting the names of their cities. There was passion, energy and pride and the City of Riverside was among them. Through the shouts of UECC AmeriCorps members, a familiar chant was called, "When I say Riverside, You say Pride, Riverside Pride, Riverside Pride." This was a phrase that had become very familiar to all other cities and that evening it would become imbedded in the heart of each delegate member, for Riverside was named the All American City!

The All-American City Award is a program of the National Civic League, a national nonprofit organization which vigorously promotes the active involvement of citizens in the governing of their communities.

Originally established to recognize local government reform and efforts to support public education, the focus of the All-American City Award has shifted to encourage broader community initiatives such as economic development, health and social service projects, and efforts to improve race relations.

A winning community must demonstrate collaboration, grassroots involvement, and consensus-based decision making among public, private and nonprofit sectors to achieve community-wide goals. In 1997, on the heels of the President's Summit for America's Future, Allstate, and the National Civic League asked all applicants to include at least one community-wide youth initiative.

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City of Riverside Mayor Ronald Loveridge speaking to supporters and public in a special reception when the City of Riverside was awarded, "An All-American City" in Mobile, Alabama on June 20th. The mayor thanks the governmental agencies, private sector businesses and delegates who participated in the project. Photo by IEHN

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City of San Bernardino award winning Teen Post/Youth Development Program

Mayor Judith Valles administering the oath of office to the elected official of the Teen Post during their 11 day residential camp at the University of Redlands. Photo by IEHN

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being economically strapped, Garcia learned quickly to do with what he had. However, many times it took someone to help him see the treasures he had inside, the potential to be a great athlete, a leader, and one day a college educated man.

In elementary school, a coach told Garcia “All you have to do is try your best.” These words stuck with him while attending Sequoia Jr. High in Fontana, where he participated in after-school sports such as baseball, basketball, cross-country running, football, soccer, track & field and wrestling. In High School he continued to play and excel in sports.

But all the while, since the age of twelve Garcia had to find odd jobs to help his family pay rent and food. He developed a liking for yard work, for fifteen dollars an hour. When he became 1990-91 Senior Class Captain of the High School football team, he learned quickly to do with what he had. Garcia’s competitiveness, backed by his family, has led him to the following accomplishments for example: two fifth place finishes in the Citrus Belt League Cross Country Championships running for Fontana High School; second place finish in a Southern California Grocery Bagging Championship representing Save-A-Minute Market in Fontana, where he worked throughout high school and college; and served as a Finance Chair of the Board of Directors for Associated Students Incorporated at Cal State University; San Bernardino.

Keeping in mind the importance of teamwork, the team was very successful with the support of his friends. Soon after high school graduation, Garcia found himself on his own, looking to his friends for support.

Garcia believes strongly in early involvement in sports for our youth. “Sports allow youth to channel their energy and aggressiveness in a positive way,” said Garcia. He goes on to explain “after-school sports teach discipline and teamwork, contributing to students feeling good about themselves.” Garcia claims that being introduced to sports help him keep out of trouble and helped him develop a strong work ethic that has carried him throughout his life. He attributes his successes in part to the support of his friends, who he considers family, especially Laurie Villanueva, his lifelong best friend. Most of all he thanks God. Currently receiving training in the Air Force Reserve in Virginia, Garcia will return to the Inland Empire in December of this year.

Gonzalez, past employee of the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, born in Glendale and raised in the Los Angeles area and Fontana, has earned three separate Bachelor of Arts degrees, in history, philosophy, and Spanish from the California State University San Bernardino. Gonzalez aspires to receive his Ph.D., becoming a university administrator helping underrepresented groups.

Growing up in a large family and facing economic hardship, Gonzalez soon adapted to the situation and began to use his academic talents early. Throughout elementary school he was the "smartest kid" in his class. He even developed his own library of books of his age, buying books at yard sales and comic books at the grocery store. His parents encouraged him, but their limited proficiency in English left him on his own. Nevertheless, he always had family support.

As he grew up, Gonzalez became driven and competitive in sports and pretty much everything he did. He thanks his brother Tony Gonzalez for mentoring him through his first year of high school. Tony, a senior at the time, treated Juan, a freshman as one of the guys, offering support.

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The City of Riverside, through the Office of City Manager, John Holmes, spearheaded the organization of a group of individuals that reviewed the application process and began the journey towards the All American City Award. There are a multitude of agencies in the City of Riverside that each contribute toward the success of children and families. Collectively, through their various resources and services, they all make a difference for citizens of Riverside. Three examples of programs that focus on families and youth were chosen to participate in the All American Award competition.

The selected programs were Passport To College, The Youth Action Plan, and the University/Eastside Community Collaborative AmeriCorps Project.

The unique factor of these three projects is not that they stand as a single entity, but as multifaceted projects that share a collaboration of resources, staff and services. The 10 final cities selected, each participated in a process that involved the application process, presentation of programs, question and answer period and overall representation and spirit throughout the three-day event.

The presentation of information involved the History of the city of Riverside, with information on its most basic challenges and concerns. Numerical economic and civic programs were listed which showed the extent and nature of citizen participation in community improvements. Mayor's Night Out, the Volunteer Center of Riverside, Youth Accountability Board, and Community Oriented Policing were just a handful among the many included in the application.

The National Civic League required that "three, recent community-driven projects that have shown an impact in the community since 1995, be included. They must exhibit proactive community problem solving and respond in collaborative and resourceful ways to deal with current issues."

The first project to be mentioned was the University/Eastside Community Collaborative AmeriCorps Project. The UECC, established in January of 1995, is comprised of a working partnership between the City of Riverside, UC Riverside, Riverside Unified School District, Riverside County Department of Mental Health, University Village, UC, Kaiser Hospital of Riverside, and Riverside Community College District. The UECC AmeriCorps is a university-based prevention and early intervention program that focuses on educational, employment and mentoring services for youth from the Eastside of Riverside. The UECC initially began as a volunteer program for UC Students. By volunteering, they could keep children involved in healthy activities such as tutoring and fine arts projects, in the after-school hours. Employment and mentoring for adolescents was also added by opening 37 UC Departments to youth.

During its first year of implementation, the UECC was recognized by the UC Board of Regents and the California Mental Health Directors Association. In the second year, the UECC was awarded the "Exemplary Teaching Example" Honor at the President's Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia. In 1997, UECC was awarded a three-year federal grant through the AmeriCorps for National Service.

In 1997, UECC was awarded a three-year federal grant through the AmeriCorps Corporation for National Service.

Community individuals now have the opportunity to earn dollars for college and a monthly living allowance as they perform educational and community building services in the UECC. A final component which included mental health services was added as a means of support for children and families. Since the inception of the collaborative in 1994, the UECC Project has logged over 18,000 volunteer hours for UC Students and has now recorded over 50,000 hours of service through its AmeriCorps team. The success of this project lies in the hearts of every teacher, principal, student, AmeriCorps members, UC department, sponsor and community-based organization that has joined together for the benefit of children.

The second project highlighted was Passport to College. Initiated in the fall of 1996, after two years of successful pilot testing, Passport to College is an innovative business-education-community-family collaboration that will increase the region's college-going rate targeting the more than 11,500 students enrolled in the Riverside Community College District class of 2004 (6th grade).

The initial partners included Riverside Community College, the Riverside County Office of Education, and six area unified school districts (Alvord, Riverside, Corona/Norco, Jurupa, Moreno Valley and Val Verde) who, together with the active commitment of business, individuals and community service organizations seek to make the dream of a college education possible for every student.

RCC Foundation is spearheading a $1.5 million campaign to support program activities and guarantee a two-year scholarship for every student who successfully completes the program and enrolls in RCC. In partnership with UC Riverside, Cal Baptist College, La Sierra University and the University of Redlands, there is an agreement to offer additional scholarship support for transferring Passport to College students to complete their undergraduate education.

Youth from local middle schools and colleges showed their pride during the presentation skit at the recent All-American Awards Convention in Mobile, Alabama.

Passport to College will instill the importance of educational attainment for the future of the community; provide information/skills to insure successful high school graduation and college enrollment; develop opportunities for the educational and business communities to work together for the future, guarantee scholarship assistance for two years at RCC and prepare a trained workforce critical to the future of the Inland Empire.

Youth Action Plan was the third project presented. In 1995, Mayor Ronald Loveidge gathered 18 community leaders to create a "youth master plan" for the City. The resulting long range Youth Action Plan is vital to Riverside commitment to become a "family friendly city." The YAP provides a framework to ensure Riverside's families have the support they need to raise healthy, competent children. The driving purpose of the YAP is to identify, coordinate, and maximize the programs and services either available or needed for the $3,000 children and youth in our city. Published in March of 1996, the YAP recommends a focus on 5 broad goals. (1) Riverside shall become known as a Family Friendly City; (2) All children shall have in their neighborhood a coordinated network of support including positive activities, safe places and caring adults who are positive role models; (3) all children and youth shall be connected to the community through opportunities for service, leadership, development and participation in the programs that affect their lives; (4) all families shall have information and access to activities or services they need to raise healthy children; and (5) all youth shall be supported in the development of their life goals and in career preparation.

A 35-member, Youth Action Family Coordinating Council was formed, including 12 students from seventh grade to college age. The Family Council's responsibility to Riverside is the coordination of existing resources, collaborative implementation of the YAP and the improvement and monitoring of the environment for children and families. This takes places in the regional cluster of 9 neighborhood clusters, as defined by middle school boundaries and at the suggestion of those living in each neighborhood. This culturally sensitive neighborhood-based network is the basis for all future plans.
Local Business and Civic Groups Support Pacific Bell Long Distance Service

San Bernardino/Riverside/Imperial Valley, July 1998 - Pacific Bell announced today that nine local chambers of commerce and other business groups in San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial counties have passed resolutions or sent letters to the Public Utilities Commission expressing their support for Pacific Bell to provide long-distance service.

The groups - representing 5,008 local business members - said that consumers would be able to save money and jobs would be created when Pacific Bell is allowed to provide long distance service in competition with the likes of AT&T and MCI.

"Highland, California receives all of its telecommunications services from Pacific Bell. Their crew support services as well as their customer service continues to be exemplary," said Karen Gaffney, executive director of the Highland Area Chamber of Commerce.

"This is truly an indication of the type of service that could be anticipated from Pacific Bell entering into the long distance market," said Art Pick, president and CEO, Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce.

He added that, "Open and robust competition among all telecommunications companies will provide customers with a choice and opportunities for a competitive product at competitive prices."

Local support for Pacific Bell's entry into the long distance market also came from chambers and business groups in Barstow, Brawley, El Centro, Calexico, Fontana, Temecula, and Victorville.

Statewide, more than 140 chambers of commerce, business councils and other economic development groups representing more than 100,000 members - have voluntarily expressed support for Pacific Bell.

With the breakup of the AT&T monopoly in 1984, long distance companies were prevented by law from offering local service and local companies like Pacific Bell have been prevented from offering long distance service. The federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 swept away those restrictions and AT&T, MCI and other new local service providers have been offering local and long distance service for more than a year.

Pacific Bell still has not yet received the go ahead from state and federal regulators to counter these companies in the marketplace by offering long distance service - something that Pacific Bell and its business supporters hope to change.

"We are delighted to have such a massive show of support for our effort to bring more competition to the long-distance markets," said Robert Ferguson, Pacific Bell's regional president. "Local chambers and business groups clearly understand that allowing full competition to take hold will mean more savings, more investments and more jobs throughout San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial Valley as well as California as a whole."

Pacific Bell filed its application at the CPUC at the end of March and expects the commission to issue its recommendation to the federal government by late fall. Company officials hope the Federal Communications Commission will in turn issue its final decision in early 1999.

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What does it take
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Wednesday, August 5, 1998

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Making It
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graduated at 16 from Fontana High School, and at 19 from Loma Linda University, becoming, perhaps, the youngest Registered Dietitian in the country in 1992. At 23 he received his Master's Degree in Public Health from Loma Linda University. Jara aspires to make an impact both in the U.S. and abroad, in terms of implementing and designing effective public health programs that improve the lives of those most in need.

Financial need is a reality faced by all of "the horseman." At fourteen, Jara sold flowers at street corners in the business group as Hernandez. He worked at A&S Market in Fontana while in high school and competed in the cross country running team for both Sequoia Jr. High and Fontana High. He thanks his older sister Betsy Jara for mentoring him through college and setting an example, since she attended college too.

For the most part Jara has been goal-minded since he can remember. To make dreams a reality, Jara advises, "Watch out for the 'rat race' and immediate rewards, such as those from credit card consumption and materialism. Stay focused on your long-term goals and don't let life's circumstances interfere with your dreams," he adds. Currently, Jara has replaced Hernandez at the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health Nutrition Program as the Nutrition Network regional representative, a program promoting healthy eating and physical activity for busy families on a tight budget.

Yes, anything is possible, with family support, sacrifice, mentors, drive and a good attitude.

The "four horsemen" have proven that the old dictum is still true: SI SE PUEDE"
Ramona School Alumni Recognition Planned

The Ramona/Alessandro Alumni Association invites former teachers, staff members and alumni, who attended those schools from 1925 to 1954, to a "Special Recognition to The Westside" event to be held on August 29, 1998, at Casa Ramona, 1524 W. Seventh Street, San Bernardino, from 4:00 PM to 11:00 PM. Mayor Judith Valles will be the keynote speaker.

"We are inviting everyone to this special reunion celebration that is dedicated to the Mexican-American families who arrived at the turn of the century and participated in the development of the city. Our goal is to identify and document the history of these families and the traditional and cultural legacies that they have left for our younger generation," said Mickey Cruz, president of the Association.

The history of Ramona Elementary School is, to a certain extent, the history of the Westside of San Bernardino, in terms of demographics, family relationships, social and community activities.

Many of the families have resided in the area since the turn of the century, and not surprisingly, are related by flood or marriage. As a result, a close relationship exists with many of these families to the present time.

The first (Ramona) school was on Fifth Street between Pico and Roberts (previously named Stafford and Garcia, according to Manuel Gomez, a descendent of Pancho Galvan, one of the early residents of the city, who immigrated from Abasolo, Guanajuato, Mexico). In 1920, the school was closed and a second Ramona School was built at Mr. Vernon and Seventh, the current Placita Park.

The second (Ramona) school was a one-room for all grades and the district kept bringing in additions as a result of overcrowding. The school was closed in 1925 and the latest Ramona School (the present Casa Ramona) was built and opened in November 1, 1926. Mrs. Clark was principal of the three schools, however, Mr. Glenn later became principal.

In 1930, sixth grade students at Ramona were admitted to classes at Sturges as a result of overcrowding. Those classes at Sturges were segregated from other classes. Alessandro Middle School was built in 1936 and Ramona became the feeder school for the new middle school. In 1975, Ramona Elementary School was closed in order to comply with the 1932 Earthquake Act. The old Alessandro Middle School was torn down and rebuilt, which is the current Ramona Alessandro Elementary School.

The program will include a social hour, with Greg Cruz entertaining with his country and blues music, dinner, a special presentation of the Sinfonia Mexicana young Mariachi group and dancing to the music of Santos Rodriguez and his band.

The event will include the presentation of the 1998 scholarship recipients: Lisa Marie Briones, Eisenhower High School graduate who will be attending Harvard University; and Sharon Flores, Pacific High School graduate, who will be attending Cal-State, San Luis Obispo. According to Mickey Cruz, tickets are limited. Persons who are planning to attend are encouraged to send their check for $12.50 per person to Dan Gomez (Allstate Insurance), 1600 N. Arrowhead Ave, Ste. 10, 2nd Floor, San Bernardino, 92405, phone number (909) 881-3494.

Baca Hosts 4th Government Day Assembly Member Joe Baca is hosting his Fourth Annual Government Day.

"Government Day will allow the public to learn firsthand how different government agencies can help us," Assembly Member Baca said.

Government Day is to be held on September 12, 1998, at the Montclair Plaza in Montclair form 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The information available at the event will allow the public to use services they might have otherwise missed.

"I urge everyone to join me at Government Day so that we may all learn how to use the government to help ourselves," Assembly Member Baca said.

Brown Awarded Recognition for Humane Treatment of Animals

This week Rep. Brown received a lifetime achievement award from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) in recognition of his outstanding achievements in promoting humane treatment of animals.

Brown, who has encouraged the humane treatment of animals throughout his career in both Congress and the State Legislature, was pleased that the ASPCA chose to honor him.

"I feel strongly that we must remember that animals are living beings capable of feeling fear and pain, and that they must be respected as such," said Brown. "I continue to support the humane treatment of wild and domestic animals by introducing and cosponsoring legislation addressing these concerns and urging government agencies to follow humane guidelines in working with animals."

In the 105th congress, Brown has authorized legislation - the Pet Safety and Protection Act - which seeks to deal with the problem of lost or stolen companion animals being used for research. He has also introduced the Captive Exotic Animal Protection Act, which would outlaw the shooting of captive exotic mammals, many of which come from zoos and circuses and are later sold for use in these "canned hunts."
TEENS SET UP THEIR OWN CITY

On Thursday, July 30, 1998, the City of San Bernardino Employment and Training Agency (SBETA) showcased to elected officials and community leaders the award winning Teen Post/Youth Development Program.

Teen Post, Inc./Youth Development Program offers an 11-day residential camp for youth 14-17 years of age, providing them with practical work experience, designed to build work attitudes and provide realistic information on job opportunities for both college and non-college bound young adults.

The program, designed to take a holistic view and approach to youth in an employment seeking and maintenance situation, challenges each individual through job skill development and vocational exploration. In addition, the camp's curriculum stresses self-awareness, positive assertiveness and physical fitness for life. The basic educational tool used is the establishment of a "micro-city," stressing the interdependence of group work efforts and role adoptions.

Since 1981, SBETA has sponsored the program and sent 3900 youth to camp. Recognized by the National Association of Counties (NACO), the City of San Bernardino's Youth Development Program was presented one of ten national job Training Program Awards of Excellence. Pastor Dennis Mims, the Youth Development Program Director was honored with the prestigious Joe Cooney Award, which is given to only one person each year by NACO. It is awarded to an individual who exemplifies the very best in training the nation's disadvantaged people.

"Over the course of 11 days, these young people learned to balance glamour against reality and developed a more judicious appraisal of values inherent to all kinds of work. This is vital to their personal growth and to the revitalization of San Bernardino," stated Mayor Judith Valles.

WHAT THE YOUTH SAY ABOUT THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

"I realize that I do need to better myself, both for myself and my daughter. Today is my first payday, and do you know how happy it makes me feel knowing that the next package of training pants my daughter will be with my own hard earned money."

Jessica Loza

"It teaches us the facts of the job force today: how to write a resume, how to conduct yourself in an interview, attitude on the job, etc. I feel that if it wasn’t for the program, I’d probably be in a lot of trouble and I’m pretty sure other teens feel that way too."

Thomas Glover Jr.

"Because of this program I realize I’ve got to finish high school. Please reconsider (about funding the program). Don’t forget, I’m voting."

Audelia Carrasco

The Saint Mary's Building Committee, Fontana, has scheduled a "NOCHE TROPICAL" fundraising dinner dance at the Gents Community Center, 1462 Art Townsend Dr., San Bernardino, formerly Norton Air Force Base, San Bernardino) on August 15, 1998, dinner 6:00 to 8:00 PM, and dancing from 8:00 to 1:00 to the music of "AMOR-6". Donations are: $25 per couple and $15 for children.

An extensive dinner will consist of chicken cordon bleu, roast beef, dill weed potatoes, fruit salad, mixed vegetables and cheesecake.

"Our committee is extending an invitation to everyone in the Inland Empire to help us with the construction of our church, and at the same time, enjoy good food and music, and raffling of a TV and other big prizes," stated, Francisca Padilla, fundraiser co-chair.

For directions, go east on 3rd Street and turn right on Del Rosa Avenue and immediately turn west on Art Townsend Dr.
**San Bernardino City Schools Job Openings**

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$261.62 TO $318.00/day 10/28 day wk
Four yrs increasingly resp. exp. managing & administering programs related to mainte-
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Sub. **LOCKSMITH**
$13.92/hr
Completion of formal apprenticeship as locksmith, or three yrs locksmith exp. which
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Valid CDL, valid Locksmith or permit issued by State of Calif.

Sub. **ROOFER**
$13.92/hr
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Apply in person at San Bernardino City Schools, 1535 W. Highland Ave.,
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