



News Release

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Seven Local Women Honored with Women of Distinction Awards at Cuesta College

Cuesta College's 35th Annual Women of Distinction Awards honored seven local women for their professional and civic contributions. The award winners were nominated by their peers and chosen by a selection committee. The awards ceremony, held March 31 on the San Luis Obispo Campus, was hosted by Cuesta College's Community Programs Department.

Progress for Women Award: Patricia McQuaid is a veteran professor at Cal Poly, teaching information systems and specializing in software testing. McQuaid is the co-founder and president of the American Software Testing Qualifications Board and is a certified information systems auditor and tester through the International Software Testing Qualifications Board. McQuaid is also an associate editor for ASQ's Software Quality Professional Journal and frequently speaks and writes for national and international conferences.

Community and Public Service Award, Professional: Lillian Judd has worked in the local nonprofit community for almost two decades. She spent five years working as the United Way of San Luis Obispo's operations officer and 13 years with the Economic Opportunity Commission (EOC) of San Luis Obispo. For more than a decade, Judd has served in her "dream job" as the director of planning and program development for the EOC. She also volunteers her time to serve on a variety of local boards, including the Emergency Food and Shelter Board, ACTION for Healthy Communities, and the San Luis Obispo Supportive Housing Consortium.

Community and Public Service, Volunteer Award: Julie Frankel uses her talents as a graphic designer and artist to promote the arts in San Luis Obispo County. She is a board member for ARTS Obispo and organizes shows to promote the works of local artists. She also donates her design services to fundraising events and has taught several workshops. She is the co-creator of The Peace Library and also volunteers with for the SLO Art Center, the Cal Poly Library, and Hospice of San Luis Obispo County.

Women in Education Award: Mary Matakovich began her career in education in 1971, working as an English teacher at Hollywood High School. She continued on to serve as a counselor and assistant vice president at Ocean View High School in Huntington Beach. In 1982, she took over as the principal of San Luis Obispo High School, an unusual position for a woman of that time. She now works as the assistant superintendent of education services at San Luis Coastal Unified School District. In addition, she also serves on Cal Poly's College of Education board of directors and was an instructor at Cal Poly from 1989-2007.

Barbara George Women in Philanthropy: Since moving to the area in 1996, Sandy Dunn has volunteered thousands of hours, serving on such local boards as the Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce, Paso Robles Rotary Club, Mozart Festival's Events Committee, the Women's Shelter Fundraiser Acquisitions Committee and as a volunteer for the Central Coast Wine Classic. In 2007, the Avila Beach resident was named a founding member of the Women's Legacy Leaders of the San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation. The Women's Legacy Fund is the only endowment fund in the county to target the needs of women and girls. For the past two years, Dunn has also served as board president of the San Luis Obispo Symphony. As a member of the French Hospital Medical Center Foundation, Dunn co-chaired the foundation's fundraising gala the past three years. The most-recent gala raised \$140,000, including \$24,000 to provide free mammograms to uninsured women at the medical center's Women's Diagnostic Center.

Susan Dressler Women in Administrative Leadership Award: Candace Markwith, a San Luis Obispo and fourth-generation county resident, has served as chief executive officer of Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center for four years. Under Markwith's leadership, Sierra Vista has invested more than \$40 million in the hospital and the community via new programs and services, construction, medical equipment and philanthropic donations. In addition to being a member of the Rotary Club, she is involved in numerous local boards and organizations, including the United Way of San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo County Economic Vitality Corp. and the Emergency Medical Services Association. This year, she served as chairman of San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce's 17th annual Public Safety Appreciation Luncheon.

Grace N. Mitchell Lifetime Achievement Award: Sandee McLaughlin began at Cuesta College in 1986 as financial aid director. The following year she was assigned to oversee the Extended Opportunities Programs and Services, a state-funded program that provides resources to low-income students. She served as director of financial aid and EOPS until 1996, when then-Cuesta President Grace Mitchell appointed her as dean of student services. In 1998, McLaughlin transitioned to a new position as the executive dean of the North County Campus, and in 2006 the South County Centers were added to her oversight responsibilities. Throughout the past 23 years at Cuesta, McLaughlin has served on a variety of committees. She was the interim vice president of student services for the 2007-2008 academic year and has remained active in college governance.



Pictured from left to right back row: Lillian Judd, Candace Markwith, Mary Matakovich, Julie Frankel, Patricia McQuaid
Front row: Sandee McLaughlin, Sandy Dunn

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