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PRESS RELEASE

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San Bernardino Commission on the Status of Women Hosts Annual Awards Luncheon
“Herstory” Celebration Salutes Accomplishments of Area Women

SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Commission on the Status of Women today hosted their annual Herstory Luncheon and Awards presentation in San Bernardino. The event attracted a capacity crowd from throughout San Bernardino County. 15 county women were honored for their outstanding contributions to the community.

The San Bernardino County Commission on the Status of Women is a non-partisan organization that serves to advance the causes of all women and works to identify and eliminate inequities that affect their lives. The Commission was created by county supervisors in 1974.

“This year, 15 very special individuals were honored for succeeding in making San Bernardino County a better place,” stated San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Chair Paul Biane. “Each of these women has different lives and backgrounds, yet they all have the same goal: to set a good example for the next generation and serve as role models for our youth. It is the distinct privilege of the Commission to salute these outstanding honorees as part of this year’s Herstory luncheon.”

The following women were recognized by the San Bernardino Commission on the Status of Women. Also noted is the county supervisor who selected them for this prestigious honor:

- First District, nominated by Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt: Joyce Harrison, Vici Nagel, Carmen Gutierrez
- Second District, nominated by Board of Supervisors Chair Paul Biane: Valerie Henry, Ramona Merrifield, Lelah Spindler
- Third District, nominated by Supervisor Dennis Hansberger: Nancy Bailey, Claire Marie Teeters, Ellen Weisser
- Fourth District, nominated by Supervisor Gary Ovitt: Ginger Eaton, Charleen King and Jane Mercer
- Fifth District, nominated by Supervisor Josie Gonzales: Clara Franklin, Esther Jimenez, Dr. Nena Torrez

“Each of these women are clearly deserving of recognition for their tremendous contributions,” concluded Chair Biane. “These women are catalysts for positive change and are truly inspirational.”

The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.

San Bernardino County Commission on the Status of Women

Presents

The Annual Herstory Luncheon

Program

Welcome	Supervisor Dennis Hansberger
Invocation	Eunice Ulloa, Mayor Pro Tem City of Chino
Pledge of Allegiance	Supervisor Josie Gonzales
Welcome Remarks	Nan Rider, CSW Chair
Introductions of Commissioners	Nan Rider

Lunch

Remarks	Supervisor Dennis Hansberger
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Presentation of Honorees

District 1	Laurie Hunter Representative for Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt
District 2	Marshall Riley Representative for Supervisor Paul Biane
District 3	Supervisor Dennis Hansberger
District 4	Roman Nava Representative for Supervisor Gary Ovitt
District 5	Supervisor Josie Gonzales
Closing Remarks	Supervisor Dennis Hansberger

Thank you for admiring the centerpieces. Please do not remove the centerpieces as many of the items are precious keepsakes that need to be returned to their owners.

Commission on the Status of Women

Commissioners

(Listed by Supervisory District)

First District

Raghada Khoury

Second District

Carolyn Anderson

Diane Williams

Shirley Simmons

Third District

Patti Termini

Roberta Shouse

Laura Palmer

Fourth District

Elizabeth Nan Rider

Cheryl Leon

Denise Smith Carrington

Fifth District

Mary Jaquish

Kim Carter

Hattie Inge

The Commission on the Status of Women is a non-partisan organization that works to advance the causes of all women and seeks to identify and eliminate inequities that affect their lives. To this end, the Commission informs, educates, advises its constituencies, and promotes a means by which women and girls of San Bernardino County are empowered to realize their potential and contribute more fully to society.

2007 Herstory Luncheon Honorees

Joyce Harrison

Joyce Harrison was born in Gulfport, Mississippi, one of the cities badly damaged by Hurricane Katrina. It was gratifying to her when local firefighters, headed by then-Fire Marshal Peter Brierty, went to the assistance of Gulfport residents in their time of need. Joyce earned her bachelor's degree in Public Administration at California State College, Dominguez Hills and a master's degree, also in Public Administration, at the University of Southern California. The latter was facilitated by a fellowship from the State of California. Apart from raising her three children, Joyce's career included positions as Research Associate at the Watts Health Foundation (an out-patient clinic in Los Angeles), and Personnel Manager at the Sharp Electronics Company. She then joined the Federal Center for Disease Control and held posts in the cities of New York, Detroit, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, and Indianapolis. Joyce retired from the Center in 2000 and became a full-time resident of Wrightwood, California. She was appointed to the local Municipal Advisory Council by then-Supervisor Jon Mikels, and later reappointed by then-Supervisor Bill Postmus. She retains that position under Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt. She was a founding member of the Wrightwood Fire Safe Council and remains an active participant. In a variety of community activities, Joyce spearheaded a successful drive to find a larger facility for the Wrightwood Branch Library and also served as Friends of the Library President. As MAC member, she promoted the restoration of the Vivian Null Park (destroyed during the construction of new public restrooms), and fostered the construction of the band shell, where the popular summer concerts are now held. She dealt with County departments in securing funds for replacing the public restrooms and tirelessly monitored the project until the restrooms were completed and open to the public. She worked to get the Community Building painted and its kitchen renovated. She has brought speakers to the Senior Luncheons and has taken some responsibilities from retiring members. She initiated and organized regular trash pickups by community volunteers on the nine-mile Lone Pine Canyon Road and obtained from the county mile markers, additional speed signs and No Littering signs on that road. Joyce is currently active in the Chamber of Commerce, the Wrightwood Property Owners' Association, and the Wrightwood Historical Society. She is also substitute teacher for the Snowline School District at the alternative schools.

Vici Nagel

Born in Philadelphia and the daughter of an officer in the United States Marine Corps, Vici has lived in many communities and traveled to all of the 48 contiguous states. She is a graduate of Salisbury State College (now Salisbury University) in Maryland where she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. With more than 25 years of successful nonprofit and for-profit business experience, Vici joined High Desert Resource Network in 2002 and is its first CEO. She has worked with a variety of nonprofits including The American Cancer Society, United Cerebral Palsy Association, and the Volunteer Center of Orange County. During her career she has owned and operated a successful trucking business with her husband ... even learning to drive a big rig herself, helped create a new nonprofit agency, was instrumental in completing a corporate merger of two nonprofit agencies, received "Certified Fund Raising Executive" credential (CFRE), and planned and implemented many successful projects, fundraising campaigns, and events. Vici serves on the Board of Directors of her church where she is the Treasurer and teaches Sunday School; as well as advisory councils for the San Bernardino County Homeless Policy Council, Goodwill Career Development Center, the Christinact Coalition, and 2-1-1 San Bernardino. She and her husband George live in rural Baldy Mesa, California with their two dogs and a cat. They are active in their church and their life's goal is, "To glorify God with our lives."

Carmen Gutierrez

Carmen Vizcarra Gutierrez is the lead reporter for Freedom Communication, Inc.'s Spanish paper, El Mojave, in Victorville. Born in Guadalajara, Mexico, she came to the United States in 1966 and began working as a Dental Technician. Carmen started her own dental laboratory in 1981. In December 1990, Carmen left a 23-year abusive marriage and moved to the Victor Valley with two of her three children, Raul, 17, and Janette, 6. Her oldest daughter Carmen, was married and living in Idaho. At 53, Carmen returned to school and attended Victor Valley College and took Journalism classes, along with Business Technologies courses. In 2004, Carmen earned her Associates in Science degree with High Honors in Business Education Technology. Even with English as her second

language, while a full-time student, she earned Dean's List honors every semester. While in college, an opportunity to help launch the Daily Press' Spanish edition paper, La Prensa del Mojave arose, in which she began working as a translator, editorial assistant, and reporter. Carmen has received numerous awards and certificates of recognition. Among them, in 2003, San Bernardino County 1st District Supervisor Bill Postmus awarded Carmen for her "commitment to the promotion of a diverse, informed and educated citizenry through the High Desert." She has been named Daily Press Associate of the Month and won the prestigious Best of Freedom Award for Excellence in New Reporting, twice. Carmen was on the board of directors for the High Desert Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for nearly two years. She is also a member of the Victorville Sheriff's Department Citizens on Patrol and is a lector with her church. Though all her accomplishments give her great pride, none compare to that of her three grandchildren: Adam, Angelica and, yes, a third Carmen.

Valerie Henry

Valerie Henry was born and raised in San Bernardino, where she attended San Bernardino High School and Valley College. After marrying her husband, David, in 1971, Valerie worked for Pacific Telephone until her son, Brett was born in 1979. She quit working so she and David could start their own business, Dave Henry Trucking. Her second son, Brian was born in 1982. They moved to Devore in 1985 in order to raise their sons in a rural atmosphere. Shortly after moving to Devore, Valerie became active in community affairs and joined the newly formed Devore Rural Protection Association. Throughout the last 20 or so years, she has held the positions of Secretary, Vice President, co-editor of the community newsletter, and is currently serving as President. Valerie has also been a member of the Board of Directors for the Devore Water Company for the past several years.

Lelah Spindler

Lelah's devotion and commitment to her community shines through in her many volunteer efforts. Whether she's serving seniors free meals at the San Moritz Lodge or operating the scoreboard for a Little League game, Lelah always seems to be helping others in Crestline. Lelah instructed young people in bantam and bowling for more than a decade and was a leader with the Camp Fire Girls for 10 years. She also served as a Cub Scout leader and as a "Room Mother" for a local elementary school. Since 1976, she's sold candy bars as a member of the Worthwhile Club to raise money for scholarships, which are awarded to local students. As a member of the Crest Forest Fire Protection District Board of Directors, Lelah has helped shape fire prevention and protection in the community for 17 years. Lelah served as Crestline's Postmaster before retiring in Sept. 1991, and she is also a past recipient of the Crestline Rotary Club's Community Service Award. Lelah, who moved to Crestline in 1937, has two children, six grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Ramona Merrifield

Ramona was born on October 25, 1937 in Dawson, Minnesota. After moving to Lytle Creek, California in 1958 she married Richard Merrifield in January 1966. He has been the joy of her life along with her two daughters, two granddaughters, two grandsons and two cats. She has taught Sunday school at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Fontana and also at Lutheran Church of the Cross, Rialto, and occasionally given the sermon on Women's Sunday or when the Pastor was on vacation. Ramona worked at Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan as a loan service clerk in foreclosures and claims for several years and later for Neal T. Baker Enterprises here in San Bernardino. Ramona has been honored in the past by the American Cancer Society, with whom she worked throughout the 1960's. She has edited The Canyon (Lytle Creek's monthly newspaper) in 1970 until going to work in San Bernardino, then again from 1981 until mid-1983 and again from June 1997 to the present.

Nancy Bailey

Claire Marie

A native of St. Clair, Michigan, Claire Marie Campbell Teeters resided with her family in Michigan for only a very short time. She spent the rest of her childhood moving from state to state as her U.S. Air Force pilot father was assigned to different jet training facilities across the southern states and Europe. By the time she graduated from Victor Valley High School, she had attended 13 different schools, including two in Great Britain. She has seven siblings, each born in a different state or country, and while the experience had many assets, she missed even then, long-term relationships. When she was unable to accept a scholarship

to attend U. C. Santa Barbara majoring in pathology, for family reasons, Claire Marie went to work in an Apple Valley hospital. While attending Victor Valley College, she began a 13-year career in the medical profession ranging from emergency room clerk, to radiology, and medical record management. She married a college sweetheart and is the mother of two sons. After her husband joined the Air Force during the Vietnam War, Claire Marie returned to the military life-style of moving from state to state, although she did get to enjoy two wonderful years at the Air Force. After an amiable divorce, she moved her children to Yucaipa to give them a hometown she had not experienced as a child. She adopted the community as her hometown and started developing the long-term friendships and relationships that have become one of her greatest joys. Claire Marie continued her employment in the medical field managing two clinical laboratories and three radiology departments. She met her next employer, Third District Supervisor Barbara Riordan, through the Yucaipa Municipal Advisory Council, where she served as secretary and a field representative for 13 years. When Supervisor Riordan stepped down, Claire Marie accepted the position of editor of the Yucaipa and Calimesa News Mirror, where she has been employed for over 10 years. She is currently president of the Yucaipa Valley Historical Society, Vice-President of the Yucaipa VisionQuest Center for Creativity, has been a Yucaipa Rotarian for 16 years, board member of the Yucaipa Valley Friends of the Library for a decade, and a member of the Yucaipa Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Ellen Weisser

Freedom began for Ellen when she married her husband, Stan Weisser, in 1966. He was the one who believed in her enough that she believed in herself. He gave her the courage to try things she would otherwise have passed up. That is freedom. Ellen's parents did an awful lot to mold her. They were hard workers and had much success in their printing business in San Bernardino. Her father was so supportive he even printed a certificate of appreciation for Ellen on the occasion of her 18th birthday, during her freshman year at UCLA. The part she remembers most read, "For her sunny nature". Growing up in San Bernardino was a hoot for Ellen. The city was wide open with opportunity, safety, and plenty of ways to have a great time.....and indeed she did. Ellen taught sixth grade in Grand Terrace for nine years, when her friend Barbara Riordan suggested that she apply for a seat on San Bernardino County's Grand Jury. She would later become county supervisor, and for several years served as the board chair. It is hard for Ellen to believe with political campaigns as they are today, that she ran her very first campaign for less than \$10,000. Ellen's life took on a whole new dimension after her two boys were born. Seth was born in the fifteenth year of her marriage. Peter was born four years later. Ellen is quick to point out that children have a way of changing people's lives 100%, and she is grateful to them for the new dimensions they added to her personality, her marriage, and to the way she views the world. For twenty years she has served as a trustee on the San Bernardino County Board of Retirement. The fund is \$5.9 billion strong and earned 15% last year. She is also involved with Children's Fund as a board member, a member of its auxiliary, and its President's Circle. Additionally, she also serves on CSUSB President Al Karnig's President's Advancement Council at California State University, San Bernardino and sits on school's Advisory Board to the College of Arts and Letters.

Ginger Eaton

Having served over thirty years as Director of the Wignall Gallery at Chaffey College, Virginia "Ginger" Eaton retired in 2002 and now spends much of her time volunteering in the community. Ginger serves on several boards and advisory groups including the Montclair Community Collaborative, Associates of Ontario Museum of History and Art, Inland Pacific Ballet Company, and the Doctors Hospital Montclair. Ginger and her husband of 50 years, City of Montclair Mayor Paul Eaton, enjoy traveling and spending time with their family, which includes four children, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Ginger's dedication to Montclair, which she has called home for forty-one years, is evident in her work with the George C. and Hazel H. Reeder Heritage Foundation. Since 2004, Ginger has donated over 2,000 hours of volunteer service to the Reeder Heritage Foundation, which supports the preservation and development of the historic Reeder Citrus Ranch in Montclair. The 100 year-old Reeder Ranch includes the original family house, barn, and orange grove, including significant archival materials documenting the history of citrus ranching in the valley. Currently, she spends as many as thirty-five hours a week helping guide the cataloging of the collection, and has a leadership role in developing community and foundation support for the Reeder Ranch. When completed, the Reeder Ranch will serve as a historic museum site for children and adults interested in the economic, social, and political history of Montclair and southern California.

Charleen King

Charleen (Morgan) King was born in Missoula, Montana in 1941 and was the eldest of 4 daughters. The family went through some difficult times and Charleen's mother struggled to raise the girls on her own. She learned many valuable lessons as a young child and through it all she has learned to have a heart for the poor and for single moms. She understands what poverty can do to an individual and how it can affect one's confidence. At an early age of 18, Charleen entered into a marriage that became an abusive relationship. Several years later she found herself raising two sons, and a multi-handicapped daughter as a single mom. In the midst of these difficulties, she fell in love with and married her current husband of 40 years, David King. Charleen had a fourth child and later they adopted 3 more children. Today, she is also proud to be the grandmother of twelve. Charleen currently is involved in the community in a variety of ways and has passionately pursued making each endeavor one that is valuable to all that are affected. She is presently serving as President of Soroptimist Chino Valley and is involved with Cancer Relay for Life, as well as a variety of other projects. Charleen is co-founder and, along with her husband, helps to pastor Isaiah's Rock, a non-profit ministry in Chino. From her home she daily gives diapers, bread, and pastries, to anyone who is in need. Each day people come to her door looking for hot meals, which she willingly serves to them- breakfast, lunch, and dinner. In addition to the aforementioned responsibilities, she oversees a ministry that distributes groceries to over 400 families each week. The food is distributed two days a week to those who lack resources to provide enough food for their families. Although Charleen's life is constantly busy, her biggest project each year is the Christmas give-away, which gives gifts and food to 1500 families, and is held on the lawn of Chino City Hall each year. The giveaway is a project that involves many community members, Charleen's family and extended family. To give you an idea of how big the project is, this past year a community member donated a 42,000 sq. ft. warehouse so that gifts could be organized and packed. And it took 18 trips with an 18 wheel semi-truck to get the gifts and food to City Hall. All this was happening while 8,000 people waited anxiously at the toy give-away site. The heart of the project is to give the gifts to the parents of the children who will be receiving the toys. This allows the families the integrity and dignity of giving gifts from their own hands and taking part by being providers for their children. It is Charleen's heart that these families don't feel as though they are being given another handout, but truly feel the love behind the event. Generally, on the Saturday prior to Christmas day, families come and parents receive a black bag or two filled with unwrapped presents for their children. Parents then take the bag home, see what is enclosed and have the liberty to know what is being given to their children. All that Charleen involves herself in takes a lot of hard work, and even more than the work, is the love that is expended. Despite the hard work, she is thankful for the difficulties and challenges that she has experienced and credits God for filling her heart with love for her neighbor.

Jane Mercer

Jane was born in Pittsburgh, the older sister to three brothers. She lived in Mt. Lebanon, where she graduated from high school in 1941. She then attended Graceland Junior College in Iowa, where she graduated in 1943 with the "Gold Seal" award for scholarship and attendance. She earned a Master's Degree in Social Science, where she was nominated to Phi Beta Kappa. She married Jack Mercer on December 28, 1945, just as World War II was ending. Jane taught at Lincoln College in Lincoln, Illinois and a year at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. For the next ten years, Jack directed the Creston High School band while Jane taught psychology and sociology at Creston Community College. During this time, their four sons were born. They now have 17 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren! When her husband was selected to be the Director of the Chaffey High School Band and Orchestra in 1958, they relocated to Ontario, California. Jane attended graduate school at USC, receiving her PhD in Sociology in 1963. Soon afterward, Jane went to work for the University of California at Riverside, where she was employed for 32 years, involved in researching aspects of mental retardation, school desegregation, and cultural bias in testing. Jane retired in 1993 as a full Professor of Sociology. Retirement is not defined by the many activities and volunteer work that Jane continues to involve herself in! She is active with OPARC, a community based agency that serves over 500 developmentally disabled adults in the West End. For the past seven years, she has been deeply involved with getting the homeless off the streets through involvement with the HOPE program; "Homeless Outreach Program and Education". The program typically serves an average of 275 different individuals per month. The primary funding for HOPE comes through CDBG funds administered by the City of Ontario. Jane then began helping through the "New Hope" Program under the auspices of the Mariposa Community Services, Inc, a 501 C (3) corporation. Jane was able to integrate services with the "Loaves and Fishes" program, which feeds a hot meal every

Friday evening to approximately 75 homeless people. She assists with advertising, distributing much-needed goods to the meal-recipients, and through these programs, Jane has become a full-time Disability Advocate for the homeless. Jane has found the time to also work with an Interfaith Housing Coalition that is working in cooperation with Supervisor Gary Ovitt. Together they sponsored a conference on "Housing the Homeless" that was attended by over 135 persons from the faith community. As a result of that meeting, possibilities for developing emergency shelters and/or hospice shelters for the homeless in the West End are being explored. During the month of April, Jane was recognized by the Soroptimist International organization, Montclair Inland Valley Chapter, and presented with their PRISM award, which is the highest honor for community service the Soroptimist organization awards.

Clara Franklin

Clara was born in Olean, New York, the middle child of five girls. She grew up in Bath, New York and graduated from High School there. She worked part time for W.C. Grant Co. and a telephone operator after graduation. She met her husband, Wilson Franklin, and married him in 1955. They moved to Denver, Colorado while Wilson attended the US Air Force Radar Tech. school. They were transferred to George Air Force Base in Victorville in January 1958. They moved to San Bernardino in 1960. Clara and Wilson have one daughter, Cindy, who attended Newmark Elementary School, where Clara volunteered as a noon-duty person and held various other positions at the school. She became active at Shandin Hills Junior High School and then later on, at Cajon High School. Clara was involved with the 5th District PTA and was their Financial Secretary. Clara had quite an exciting career with the Harris' Co, which began as a part-time sales clerk in 1977 and progressed to a Buyer. She then became a Store Manager for Modern Woman in San Bernardino for two years. While she was employed by the Harris' Co., Clara participated in the Child Help USA Harris' Co. Christmas Benefit for Abused Children. In 1989, Clara joined the County of San Bernardino in the Transitional Assistance Department, working in the Medi-Cal Division. She was employed there until she retired on 2000. Clara is a member of the Highland Avenue Lutheran Church and has served on the Church Council for several years. Clara is currently involved with the Arrowhead Farms Neighborhood Association and the Community Redevelopment Alliance. She has served on the Board of Directors for both organizations, while serving as President of the Arrowhead Farms Neighborhood Association for the past two years. She is working with the Community Redevelopment Alliance on its Electric Avenue Heritage Park project to enhance railway easement and provide Safe Routes to School for Hillside and Arrowhead Elementary Schools and for Golden Valley Middle School, and a walking trail along the easement. Clara is also on the Board of Directors and Secretary for, the Eden Residential Center housing complex for Senior Citizens. Clara now enjoys cruising for relaxation and has been on three. She and Wilson celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary and enjoyed a cruise to Alaska with her sister, Jean, her friend Darlene, her daughter Cindy and her husband Gary, and their grandchildren, Benjamin, Jessica, and Sarah. Clara adds further enjoyment to her retirement by riding the Metrolink Beach Train to San Clemente at least two to three times a year!

Esther Jimenez

Ms. Esther Jimenez, daughter of Pedro and Benita Jimenez, is one of seventeen children. She was born and raised in San Bernardino, California. Esther attended local schools such as Ramona Elementary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic School, Alessandro Elementary, Franklin Jr. High School, and Pacific High School. In spite of having become a teenage mother, she attended and graduated from San Bernardino Valley College and the University of California at Riverside. She was awarded a scholarship from the University of Texas A & I and attended the Instituto Tecnologico de Morelia in Michoacan, Mexico. Her high level of determination and motivation carried her to become the second child in her family to graduate from college. Ms. Jimenez, Health Education Specialist II, has been employed with the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health since December 1990. In her professional capacity, she has drafted sample tobacco policies and provided technical assistance to city and county administrators, mayors, city council members, city managers, law enforcement, county counsel and board of supervisors. She has been successful in creating and advocating policies that are stronger than California state law. Several of her sample policies have been adopted and are implemented throughout the county of San Bernardino. As the creator of many innovative countywide projects, she has presented at national, state, and local levels. Esther has been extremely community-service oriented since the age of 22. She served as editor for the Casa Ramona Child Development Center Newsletter, taught catechism to middle school children at St. Christopher' Church in Moreno Valley and served as an usher at the same parish. As former

President and former Board Member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino, she has been a key player in the Casa Ramona Health Fair, Cal-State Future Leaders Program, KKC Little League Baseball, and in a multitude of other programs. Past involvement includes the “Salute to the Route 66”, Lighthouse for the Blind, and Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center, to name a few. Ms. Jimenez’ commitment to her community has had a major impact on the lives of many people in the Inland Empire. She was instrumental in organizing the Latino Health Collaborative (LHC), a group of concerned citizens consisting of physicians, educators, directors of community organizations and local policy makers whose mission is to address health disparities and to advocate for improved medical care for Hispanic families. Esther adores her two children, Albert Herman and Mikelle Monica. She glows at the sight of her four grandchildren: Albert, Laurissa, Jonathan, and Autumn Rose. She enjoys Golf. Her travels include England, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Alaska, Canada, the Caribbean, China, and most of the United States.

Dr. Nena Torrez

Dr. Nena Torrez is well known at multiple levels for her various areas of community and professional involvement. She is currently a professor in the College of Education at California State University San Bernardino. In that capacity, she teaches courses to both students seeking their California teaching credentials and with students, primarily credentialed veteran teachers, who are working on their MA degrees in specialized areas of the teaching profession. Among the numerous awards and recognitions Dr. Torrez has received from Cal State are the University Diversity Award, Outstanding Advisor Award from the College of Undergraduate Studies, the Outstanding Faculty Mentor, and the Outstanding Professor from the Associated Students. Dr. Torrez understands the educational system from the vantage point of the parent, the teacher, and the administrator, as well as the State of California Department of Education. Dr. Torrez has served on numerous committees both at the school level with SBCUSD, the SBCUSD level, and at the state level, having served as a College of Education delegate to the California Commission of Teacher Credentialing. At the parent level, both of her children have attended schools within SBCUSD, starting at the kindergarten level, and her son is currently a junior at Middle College High School. Dr. Torrez has taught Pre School, elementary school, community college and at the university level in California’s public education system. Dr. Torrez’ research and publications have been presented both locally, nationally, and internationally. She has been an invited presenter in various countries including Chile, England, Mexico, New Zealand, and Peru. She has also met with President Bush’s advisor, Margaret Spelling, to discuss the research of the impact of NCLB on English Language Learners. One of her most prestigious publications, *Helping ESL Learners Succeed*, co-authored with Dr. Kenneth M. Johns, was published by Phi Delta Kappa in 2001. Dr. Torrez is the author of numerous articles and two other books. Dr. Torrez is also well known for her work with the integration of technology and frequently presents in this arena. On a local note, Dr. Torrez began school at Mt. Vernon Elementary and is a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, having received all of her sacraments there as a child. She was the President of the Kiwanis of Greater San Bernardino and instrumental in their college scholarship fundraising efforts. Dr. Torrez is also actively involved with several other scholarship associations, believing in the transformative power of education. She was the first member of her family to attend college and works diligently with students and their families to make this opportunity available to others. She has been recognized by CSUSB for her work with Project Upbeat, which is a middle school college orientation program. Dr. Nena Torrez is a long time San Bernardino resident. Born in southern California, she is the daughter of Luis Ibarra Tórréz and his widow, Calista Roseanna Tórréz. Dr. Tórréz started school at Mt. Vernon Elementary in San Bernardino and went on to study at the University of California Santa Barbara, and then transferred and completed her undergraduate studies at the University of California Berkeley, with majors in both History and Political Science. She then went on to California Western Law School and became one of the youngest women to ever be admitted to the California State Bar Association. She was awarded a Howard University Post Doctoral Fellowship for two successive years and worked for the Legal Services Corporation of America, California Rural Legal Assistance, and the United Farm Workers. Dr. Torrez then began to study Bilingual Education, completing an MA at California State University Dominguez Hills, and a PhD from Claremont Graduate School. Dr. Torrez has taught various grade levels in the California Public School System. For the last nine years she has been employed at California State University San Bernardino in the College of Education. She has served in various capacities including the CSU system-wide coordinator of the Mexico BCLAD program. Dr. Torrez has been honored multiple times by the University for her tireless dedication to the CSUSB students, faculty, and staff.