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NEWS

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STUDENTS CONNECT WITH BUSINESS LEADERS AT UNIQUE “CONNECTIONS TO THE FUTURE EVENT” NOVEMBER 6

Guest Speaker Maria Contreras-Sweet, Chairwoman of Promérica Bank

ROWLAND HEIGHTS, CA – NOVEMBER 1, 2007 – Senior student leaders from Nogales and Rowland High Schools will network with more than 200 local businesses and community leaders at the 13th Annual “*Connections to the Future*” event on November 6. At this unique luncheon event, more than 100 senior “seminar students” interact with business and community leaders to learn professional employment skills, such as how to network and appropriate standards for business dress, etiquette and presentation skills. Student leaders facilitate the entire event, with presentations on the award-winning **Career Certification Program**. The guest speaker Maria Contreras-Sweet, Board Director and Executive Chairwoman of Promérica Bank, the first Latino-owned bank in California in 30 years. “*Connections to the Future*” will take place from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Nogales High School, in the Gymnasium.

The award-winning **Career Certification Program** at Rowland Unified School District offers students at both Nogales and Rowland High Schools the opportunity to earn a certificate in one of six career pathways: Arts & Communications, Business, Family & Consumer Sciences, Health & Medical Services, Public & Human Services, and Technology. “*Connections to the Future*” showcases the program with student displays and presentations about each pathway.

Student leaders and facilitators for this year’s event are: **Steven Agdeppa**, Rowland Health & Medical Services; **John Alejandro**, Rowland Health & Medical Services; **Nika Maria Banzuela**, Nogales Arts & Communications; **Alma Castro**, Nogales Public & Human Services; **Edward Diaz**, Nogales Business; **Sally Gip**, Rowland Health & Medical Services; **Elizabeth Mar**, Rowland Business; **Joseph Moncion**, Nogales Health & Medical Services; **Jamie Nix**, Rowland Arts & Communications; **Deval Penchal**, Nogales Business; **April Torres**, Nogales Family & Consumer Sciences; and **Suzana Tran**, Rowland Family & Consumer Sciences.

This year's event theme is, "*The Path to Career Success.*" Special thanks to Pepsi Bottling Group, Flower Mart and Marie Callender's Restaurant for their donation and support. Nogales High School is located at 401 S. Nogales Street in La Puente. The number is (626) 965-3437.

Business and community leaders are encouraged to attend this event to share with students information on their industry, setting goals and workplace experiences. Participants receive complimentary lunch and network with students and more than 200 businesses in attendance. For more information, please contact Irene Cox at (626) 854-8520, extension 1572.

Connections to the Future is an annual event coordinated by the School-to-Career Program. For further information about the award-winning Career Pathways Program, please visit their website: <http://careerpathways.rowland.k12.ca.us>.

The Rowland Unified School District is proud to serve 17,500 students at 23 elementary and secondary schools in the communities of Rowland Heights, Walnut, La Puente, City of Industry, and West Covina. Permits allow students from other communities to attend our schools. More than 5,000 adults (16+) are also served by the Rowland Adult and Community Education School. For more information about Rowland Unified, call (626) 965-2541 or visit www.RowlandSchools.org.

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