



NEWS Release

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YOSEMITE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
COLUMBIA COLLEGE • MODESTO JUNIOR COLLEGE

Diversity and Human Rights Conference Planned

September 22, 2005

(Modesto, CA) – Yosemite Community College District (YCCD), Seeds of Wisdom and Ceres Unified School District will cosponsor a Diversity and Human Rights Conference entitled “Economic Empowerment & Social Justice by Embracing Diversity” on Thursday, October 27 (6:30–8:00 p.m.) and Friday, October 28 (8:00–2:00 p.m.) at the Mary Stuart Rogers student center located on Modesto Junior College’s (MJC) West Campus. The event is free to the public.

“YCCD is pleased and honored to serve as the host and co-sponsor of this event. The Conference is consistent with the mission of our district’s nationally acclaimed Beyond Tolerance Initiative,” said YCCD Chancellor Dr. Jim Williams. The purpose of the conference is to bring together youth, their parents and teachers, as well business leaders and area community members to help address issues of sensitivity and diversity in Stanislaus County and throughout the greater Central Valley.

Thursday night (October 27) at 7:00 p.m. will feature keynote speaker Reverend Cecil “Chip” Murray of the First AME Church in Los Angeles. Reverend Murray was assigned to 300 active members in Los Angeles’ oldest black congregation in 1977. Since that time, the congregation grew to over 17,500. Notable facets of his congregation’s “Take the Church Beyond the Walls” design include raising \$4 million for the physically disabled, reclaiming communities from drugs and gangs by men’s nightly patrol and prison ministries, raising \$5 million for transportation programs for seniors and disabled, and innovative bone marrow donor program, health care, AIDS and smoking ministries. Also a Professor at the University of Southern California (USC), Reverend Murray’s First AME Church was identified by former President George H. Bush as the 177th point of light.

Friday (October 28) will include a number of morning breakout training sessions beginning at 8:00 a.m. Scheduled topics include Vocational/Technical Education, Building Economic Wealth, Hate Crimes, Civil Rights, Gangs, Employment, Small Business Ownership, Health Issues and Health Services. Pre-registration is required as lunch will also be provided. Each attendee will have the opportunity to attend up to three different breakout sessions.

Chancellor Williams “applauds the conference organizers’ commitment to valuing and promoting diversity and human rights.” For more information or a registration form contact Timothy Daniels, event organizer at (209) 652-2109 or the Yosemite Community College District Chancellor’s Office at (209)575-6959.

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