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Fifteen County Programs Receive NACo Awards, Including One "Best of Category"

(Santa Ana, CA) — Fifteen County of Orange programs were selected to receive a 2012 Achievement Award by the National Association of Counties (NACo). Among these, the Registrar of Voters' **My Ballot** program to teach high school students the value of our electoral process, democracy, and civic participation was also designated "Best of Category" in the Civic Education and Public Information category.

"We are honored to have been recognized by NACo and appreciate the opportunity to share innovative County programs that best demonstrate our efforts to provide efficient, quality services to the residents of Orange County," said Chairman John M.W. Moorlach, Orange County Board of Supervisors.

The fourteen additional Orange County programs to receive Achievement Awards are:

- **1.62 Defined Contribution Plan for New Employees:** In an effort to address increasing pension costs, the County's Human Resources Department initiated steps towards implementing a new lower retirement formula, "1.62% at 65," combined with a Defined Contribution Plan.
- **Amnesty Program for Patrons with Overdue Fines:** From September 12 -18, 2011, patrons with overdue OC Public Libraries material could return the item(s) to the branch and have associated fines waived. During Amnesty Week, attendance increased by more than 4,500 library visitors over the same week in 2010.
- **Archaeological and Paleontological Partnership Program:** OC Community Resources' OC Parks division and California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) entered into a partnership agreement in December 2009 for CSUF to manage, curate, and display a world-class archaeological and paleontological collection.
- **Blended Tutor Training Program:** This OC Community Resources' OC Public Libraries division program includes a new type of adult literacy tutor training program, blending traditional face-to-face instruction with self-paced training through alternative technologies.
- **Blogger Preview – Heritage Hill Seasonal Event:** OC Community Resources' OC Parks division utilized a no-cost marketing technique to increase attendance at two annual holiday events.
- **Differential Response – Path One:** The Differential Response Path One program was designed by the Social Services Agency to identify, prevent and treat child abuse in order to prevent families/children from coming into the child welfare system and/or to prevent or minimize recurrence of child abuse within certain families.
- **eReader Open House Program:** OC Community Resources' OC Public Libraries division created the eReader Open House Program in response to the growing demand for eAudio and

eBook materials. The program provides hands-on training for both staff and community that allow them to utilize and enjoy new library resources with their reading devices.

- **Health Care Agency Leadership Development Program:** This three-level leadership training program provides Health Care Agency employees with ongoing development that contributes to personal and professional growth.
- **Historical Sheet Music Digital Collection Project:** To improve access to a popular sheet music collection, the OC Community Resources' OC Public Libraries division created the Historical Sheet Music Digital Collection Project, which digitized over 400 pieces of full-color sheet music owned by the Cypress Branch Library.
- **OC Parks Ranger Training Academy:** The OC Parks Ranger Academy is the only academy in the United States specific to the role of county and regional park rangers. Rather than sending recruits through a law-enforcement academy that provides only some of the needed skills, the OC Parks Ranger Academy trains current and prospective park rangers with the specialized skills necessary to be an exceptional park ranger.
- **Poll Worker Training Video:** The Orange County Registrar of Voters Poll Worker Training Video was developed to improve the quality of training for the thousands of volunteers who serve as poll workers on Election Day.
- **ProgPay Computer Application System:** The ProgPay system was developed for the Inspection Section of the OC Public Works Department, which plans and implements County funded capital improvement projects. When plans are approved, requests for bids are advertised via the internet. The ProgPay system then tracks the progress made by the contractor on the projects down to each line item of work.
- **Setting Appropriate Orders: A Child Support Best Practice Program:** This Child Support Services program has provided hard empirical data to guide child support professionals such as caseworkers, attorneys, and court commissioners nationwide in creating appropriate orders at the establishment of a case to yield the greatest likelihood of future payments.
- **Supervisor Enhancement Leadership Forum:** The Child Support Services Supervisor Enhancement Leadership Forum was developed to provide supervisors, managers and other leaders who supervise staff with an opportunity to participate in leadership development.

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