



PRESS RELEASE

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Citrus College Program Coordinator Named Woman of the Year

Lillian Sass, coordinator of the Citrus College Foster/Kinship Education and Resources Program (FKCERP), has been named a Woman of the Year for the 25th Senate District by Senator Carol Liu.

Every year, state senators honor women in their districts who have made unique contributions to enhance the quality of life for others. Senator Liu selected five women from her district, which includes Burbank, Bradbury, Glendale, Pasadena, La Canada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Montrose, Altadena, San Marino, Shadow Hills, South Pasadena, Sierra Madre, Sunland-Tujunga, Monrovia, Duarte, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, Glendora, and Upland.

Sass was selected because of her commitment to supporting foster youth and her dedication to educating foster and adoptive families.

A full-time Citrus College employee since 2003, Sass has worked as the coordinator of the Early Childhood Career Ladder Program and as the interim supervisor of Extended Opportunities Programs and Services. She was assigned to the FKCERP in 2006.

"Citrus College is proud of Lil's accomplishments and appreciates the many contributions she has made to the institution," said Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president of Citrus College. "Her commitment to supporting foster youth and her dedication to educating foster and adoptive families is commendable. She is definitely deserving of this incredible honor."

As the coordinator of the FKCERP, Sass is responsible for overseeing a variety of specialized programs and classes. This includes the Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success – Independent Living Program, a comprehensive and integrated program uniting community partners and academic leaders to empower current and former foster youth.

"As a former community college student, I have always wanted to help others the way I was once helped. Being the coordinator of the Foster/Kinship Program has provided me with the opportunity to serve students in a unique way," Sass said. "I am honored to be part of such important work, and I am humbled by this award."

The FKCERP has expanded under Sass's leadership. Last year, Citrus College celebrated the grand opening of the Foster/Kinship Lounge in the Citrus College Integrated Success Center. The college also hosted a special event, "Our Cities Have a Heart for Children Who Need a Home," designed to encourage community members to consider participating in the foster care and/or adoption process.

"Citrus College has been a valuable resource to students and families involved in the foster and adoption process for more than 25 years. During Lil's tenure as coordinator, the Foster/Kinship Program has evolved and its students have reached new heights," said Mrs. Susan M. Keith, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. "The Citrus College community congratulates Lil on receiving this honor and thanks her for her continued service to this unique population."