

Ventura County Commission for Women

JULY 1986

VCCW Issues

Make reservations now for awards banquet



Planning is underway for the gala event of the year: the Ventura County Commission's Fifth Annual Salute to Women Awards Banquet to be held Wednesday, Oct.29 at the Westlake Plaza Hotel in Westlake Village.

Fourteen women will be honored for their personal achievements and their contributions to the betterment of life for women in Ventura County. Agriculture's Carolyn Leavens will be mistress of ceremonies.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Ventura County Commission for Women, this important fundraiser brings together women and men from divergent walks of life in celebration of the similarities and unique differences of Ventura County women.

Tables for 10 can be reserved for \$600 which will include introduction at the banquet, "Gold Circle" seating and other extras. If a reservation is made before Aug. 15 the company's name will be included in all pre-banquet publicity.

A patron reservation for \$60 will include special VIP listing in the banquet program, introduction as a patron and "Gold Circle" seating. The general ticket price is \$25 with a limited number of tickets available for students under 21 at \$21.50.

Registration and no-host cocktails, where guests will have the opportunity to meet each awardee, begins at 5:30 p.m. To make reservations or for further information, call Lee Anderson at (805) 496-8470 or Priscilla Pike at (805) 658-7770.

Educational opportunities for women in transition

Many Ventura County residents are still not aware that a college degree can be obtained in Ventura at the University Center — an off-campus facility jointly sponsored by California State University, Northridge (CSUN) and the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB).

Between these two institutions of higher education, approximately 20 degree programs — including bachelors, masters and teaching credentials — are currently available.

"The University Center is constantly expanding and more degrees will be entered soon," said Joyce Kennedy, director.

Pursuant to recent legislation, i.e., Senate Bill 1103 sponsored by Senator Gary K. Hart and recently signed into law by Governor Deukmejian, a study of the present and future educational needs of Ventura County and a site selection study for a permanent and expanded home for the Center are in progress.

"With an expanded facility, we hope that a larger variety of degrees than currently feasible can be added," Kennedy said.

Since the University Center is primarily designed for the part-time evening pursuit of a degree, it has enabled many women to return to school and continue their education after having taken a "family break." Indeed, a representative survey of the Center's Fall 1985 enrollment shows that more than 78 percent of the students are women and that their average age is approximately 35 years old.

Are these re-entry women having a difficult time returning to college studies? Not at all, according to some graduates recently interviewed.

Gloria Smith, 38, Port Hueneme, a June 1985 UCSB graduate, had previously attended Long Beach State immediately after high school. However, after two years of study she had to drop out to work full-time. She then married and had three children while continuing to work full time. In order to achieve any significant career improvement, though, she needed to obtain a bachelor's degree.

The University Center, with its individual coursework normally offered between the hours of 4 to 7 p.m., or 7 to 10 p.m., one day a week,

provided the means for her to do so. Given her motivation, she encountered little difficulty in competing with the junior college transfers. She states, "Our age group was more disciplined, more serious because we were paying for our education out of our own pockets."

Jean Garrez, 51, Camarillo, obtained a bachelor's degree in health science from CSUN through the Center in 1983. She is currently pursuing coursework at the Center to obtain her master's degree in educational psychology, and a Marriage-Family-Child Therapist license (MFCT).

When the youngest of her four children entered school, she decided to return herself to achieve her deferred educational goals. The necessity of working full-time prohibited her from commuting to campus. According to Jean, "Everything is arranged so well at the University Center. There are no long lines to fight and you receive personal attention."

Shirley Kingsland, 61, Ventura, recently graduated from UCSB with a bachelor's degree in liberal studies. She had to go to work right after high school and had no opportunity to attend college at that time. After she raised her children and put them through college, she felt that it was "her turn now." Her motivation for doing so was "personal satisfaction" and she wouldn't have done it if she had to commute to a campus.

If your circumstances are such that you can only pursue a degree part-time, the University Center provides a convenient, supportive and friendly place for you to do so.

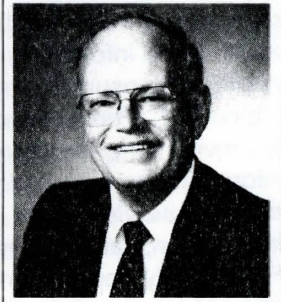
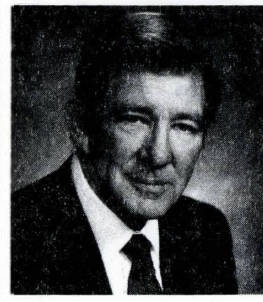
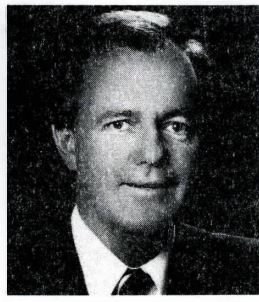
"Both CSUN and UCSB are constantly reviewing the demand for various degree programs in Ventura County in order to meet the educational needs and desires in the area," Ms. Kennedy said. "So if a program you're interested in is not now available at the University Center, please contact us."

The Center is located at 3585 Maple St., Suite 112 and is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. On Fridays the Center closes at 4 p.m.

"You're invited to drop in anytime during those hours for further information," she said. The Center may be reached by calling (805) 644-7261 or 656-3606.

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Child care efforts continue

The United Way Child Care Task Force Implementation Committee will continue the thrust initiated by the Ventura County Commission for Women in encouraging employer-assisted child care throughout the county.

Commissioners Brook Hubbell and Bonnie Warrington reported that during June and July various components of the United Way's task force have been meeting: Child Care Congress, Employer-Assisted Child Care/Education and Child Care Trust Fund.

A tentative date has been set in September for a breakfast hosted by Arco Solar's Bill Klosterman to coordinate with other activities planned by the task force and to tie in with a media blitz focusing on Child Care Month. Chief executive officers of major Ventura County corporations will be invited to attend for an opportunity to raise awareness of the need for employer-assisted child care services.

Options will be explored that relate to savings realized, turnover rates reduced, general employee satisfaction and many other bonuses identified in the Commission's child care research and symposium. "This corporate influence will hopefully have a positive effect on other corporations who in turn can work together for the implementation of child care centers countywide," said Commissioner Warrington.

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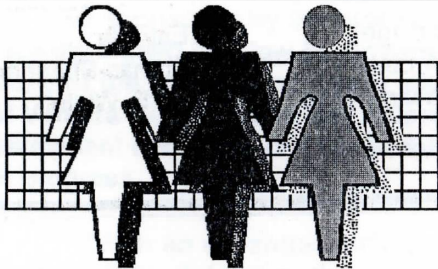
Information and Referral Network begun in county

The Ventura County Information and Referral Network was formally brought together in the fall of 1985 to coordinate efforts and better address the information needs of clients/consumers residing in the county. The network seeks to provide long-range, quality information to the public about available services. For information, call Jeanine Faria, Faria Family Foundation at (805) 658-0991 or the United Way office in Camarillo.

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