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NEWS

**Coast Board Honors South Orange County Community College
District Trustee Thomas Fuentes**

Costa Mesa, Cal. – Board President Jim Moreno sends his condolences to the family and friends of Thomas Fuentes. Moreno stated, “On behalf of Coast Colleges, I am saddened to hear of the loss of our fellow trustee, Tom Fuentes. He was a true statesman and whole-heartedly believed in the community college system.”

Thomas Fuentes was the first Hispanic in the history of the South Orange County Community College District to serve on its Board of Trustees. Moreno shared that “Mr. Fuentes was a great and well-respected leader. He was a strong supporter of the community college system as he was a community college graduate himself.”

At their special meeting today the Coast Community College District Board of Trustees will recognize Fuentes with a ceremonial adjournment in his honor.

Fuentes served on many community and national boards, including the Board of Advisors of the United States Elections Assistance Commission and the Board of Directors of the National Conservative Campaign Fund. Appointed by President George W. Bush, Fuentes served as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation. Fuentes was the founding Chairman Emeritus of the Second Harvest Orange County Food Bank of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and he was a Knight of Malta.

Fuentes passed away at the age of 63 on May 18, 2012. He had been battling liver cancer. Fuentes is survived by his wife, Jolene; daughter Michelle; sons Thomas Jr. (T.J.) and Joey; brother Robert; and sister Martha Dempsey.

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The Coast Community College District is comprised of Coastline Community College headquartered in Fountain Valley, Golden West College in Huntington Beach and Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa.