County Receives "Most Committed Partner Award" from California State University, Fullerton

Pictured at the awards ceremony from left to right are Julie Chay (OC Waste & Recycling), Karen Munoz (Health Care Agency), Peggi Buff (OC Community Resources), Jane Collier (Social Services Agency), Patricia Palacios (Health Care Agency), Jane Dawson (Human Resource Services), and Daniel Cook (Public Defender), who have all worked with interns from California State University, Fullerton in their respective agencies/departments.

California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) presented the County of Orange with the "Most Committed Partner" honor at its Ninth Annual Community Engagement Awards ceremony last month.

"With this award, we are pleased to acknowledge your efforts to provide quality learning experiences for our students," said Dawn Macy, Director of CSUF's Center for Internships & Community Engagement. "You have gone out of your way to accommodate individuals and teams of students from a variety of majors to complete a wide range of assignments at an amazing array of County agencies and departments."

Over the past year, more than 300 County employees from 12 agencies/departments have supervised interns from CSUF, helping to immerse them in an array of hands-on activities related to their academic studies. Common intern responsibilities include: research and analysis, client/constituent services, program development, community outreach, as well as technical, scientific and professional services.

"Along with the traditional benefits that many interns experience such as exploring career options and applying academic knowledge and skills to the workplace, County employees do an exceptional job in mentoring, training, coaching and guiding CSUF students throughout their internships," said Jane Dawson, Manager of Volunteer/Intern Resources with Human Resource Services. "In addition, students are provided with many opportunities to network with our professional staff members – who are dedicated to making a very positive and significant difference in Orange County through public service."

To watch a video that was shown at the event and features interviews with County staff and interns, please visit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5u9V8pqKE4&feature=youtube.