

Garden Pathways

2006 "Woman with a Heart for Bakersfield"

Sandra V. Serrano



Sandra V. Serrano is a leader, an educator, and a mentor with a heart for her community. Sandra's passion to serve as an advocate for others permeates her expansive professional and community service. As Chancellor of Kern Community College District and former president of Bakersfield College, as well as in diverse management and student service roles since 1980, Sandra has enabled thousands of youth to activate their potential through education.

Sandra's leadership in education extends statewide. She is president-elect of the Community College League of California Chief Executive Officers and serves on the executive board of the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium to encourage college attendance. A devoted community leader, her involvement includes seats on the boards of the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, Kern High School District, Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the Women's Advisory Council of the Girl Scouts Joshua Tree Council, and President of the Kern County Hispanic Educators. Sandra has inspired lifelong learning as a sought-after speaker on leadership, education and personal development topics.

Sandra's life work is the clarion call of a tune that first played in the cultural heritage of her early years. Sandra's Latina roots are strong, beginning with an upbringing infused with traditional family values. She credits her success to the efforts of her parents, who worked in the fields and championed education as the avenue for a brighter future for their daughter. Today as an educational advocate for others, Sandra envisions a learning environment that fosters respect for individual differences and offers options for learning to one's full potential.