



# Statewide equity award goes to Seattle Community Colleges Board Chair Constance W. Rice

July 22, 2011

SEATTLE – Dr. Constance W. Rice, chair of the Seattle Community Colleges Board of Trustees, has received the 2011 Outstanding Advocate for Equity Award from the [Trustees Association of Community and Technical Colleges](#).

The award was presented at the June regional meeting of trustees and presidents from Washington community and technical colleges.

Dr. Rice was praised for her long career of civic and educational activities that advance quality and equality throughout the community, and which also influence the students, faculty and staff of the Seattle Community Colleges – where students of diverse backgrounds make up half of the student body and come from homes where more than 80 first languages are spoken.

“Our colleges are the region’s leading pathway to higher education, baccalaureate degrees and good jobs and careers for all students and for students of color,” said Seattle Community Colleges Chancellor Jill A. Wakefield. “All of us, colleges and community alike, benefit from Dr. Rice’s work to increase opportunities and give voice to all individuals.”

Trustee Rice has received multiple civic and humanitarian awards and has been cited as one of the “25 most powerful women in Seattle” for accomplishments such as founding the Seattle Health and Nutrition Project to provide nutrition education and meals to low-income families in local public elementary schools; establishing the U.S. branch of the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation; and organizing a mentorship organization for young African-American women. During the 1990s, as a former vice chancellor and senior vice chancellor of the Seattle Community Colleges, she developed the district’s annual Martin Luther King, Jr. program into a signature event dedicated to bringing together a cross-section of the community and rekindling Dr. King’s message of tolerance and inclusion.

Dr. Rice is Managing Director for Knowledge Management for Casey Family Programs, providing subject matter expertise and trends to national child welfare leadership; governance; and law and justice agencies. Trustees, including those on the [Seattle Community Colleges Board](#), are appointed by the Governor and approved by the State Senate for five-year terms.

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