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Commendable Recognition

Congressman Baca

The Community College League of California bestowed the prestigious honor upon Rep. Baca during a ceremony at the Pasadena Convention Center. Distinguished Alumni Awards are presented to community college alumni who are accomplished professionals and outstanding citizens of their communities. The Distinguished Alumni Award also serves as a way to showcase the outstanding results of a California community college education.

Of the tens of thousands of accomplished alumni from the 112 colleges represented in the Community College League of California, only 5 were awarded with the prestigious Distinguished Alumni Award this year. Barstow Community College nominated Congressman Baca for the award because of his longtime commitment to higher education and the community college system.


“I am truly humbled to receive this distinguished honor from the Community College League of California,” said Rep. Baca. “My time at Barstow Community College played a vital role in shaping the person I became. It helped instill in me the self-confidence, leadership and work ethic I needed to get where I am today.”

During his speech, Rep. Baca talked about growing up the youngest of 15 children in a poor household. He spoke of the struggles he overcame and the important roles that family, faith, and education played in helping him succeed in life.

“My life is a testament to the power of education,” Rep. Baca said. “Education is the key to a sound future. It opens the doors of opportunity for all of us. I will continue to work in Congress to promote excellent community colleges, and ensure that all Americans are given the best educational opportunities possible.”

Rep. Baca’s first experience in leadership began at Barstow Community College, where he was elected to the Student Body Council. He also strengthened his athletic interests playing on the college’s baseball, basketball, and cross country teams.

Congressman Baca said his public service career began in the education field when he became the first Latino elected to the San Bernardino Community College District Board of Trustees.

In his speech, UC Riverside Chancellor Timothy White praised Rep. Baca for promoting federal investment in higher education. Chancellor White explained that colleges must continue to reach out to many of our underserved communities in California, so that everyone is given an
equal opportunity at receiving a good education and achieving success in life.

The Community College league of California has recognized the distinguished alumni of California’s community colleges since 1964. For a complete list of Distinguished Alumni, visit http://www.ccleague.org/files/public/AC2010/DistAlumniCompList.pdf.

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