

2008-09 Carter Doran Leadership Award Recipient: Pam Deegan



Pam Deegan is a bright and capable leader. She has exceptional knowledge of all matters academic and an unwavering commitment to doing what is best for community college students. She is role model for faculty and administrators and she is devoted to providing excellent learning experiences for students.

After years of successful teaching and administrative experience at Irvine Valley College, Rancho Santiago College, Miramar College, and Mt. San Jacinto College, she was brave enough to accept the challenge of serving as Vice President, Instructional Services at MiraCosta College. MiraCosta had been through two years of campus-wide turmoil and the Office of Instruction was in disarray. Morale among faculty and staff members was adversely affected by the discord at the College. In just one year, under Pam's leadership, morale has improved and the Office of Instruction has become well organized and efficient. Pam recognized deficiencies and worked collaboratively with faculty and administrative colleagues to correct them. Her planning and organizational skills are exemplary.

Pam served the California Community College Chief Instructional Officers Association as president in 2005-06. Her advocacy for students and for colleagues in instruction was apparent, as she represented instructional leaders at the System Office Consultation Council and the meetings of the Board of Governors. She has always been perceived to be an effective administrator by those who have worked side-by-side with her. The year as president provided the opportunity for people all over California to experience her exceptional leadership abilities.

Pam worked with Academic Senate leaders and Student Services colleagues to develop the California Community College System Basic Skills Initiative plan. Her "can do" attitude and her passion for improving community college developmental course success rates helped immeasurably to make basic skills a "front burner" issue for all of us who are concerned about student success.

Pam has a marvelous sense of humor and an engaging personality. People gravitate to her and she inspires trust among her colleagues. She is a creative academician who follows through so that plans turn into relevant activities. Her boundless enthusiasm for improving processes and her commitment to innovation have helped MiraCosta College to focus hopefully on the future. Pam Deegan is a teacher, a coach, a mentor, an advocate for all things academic, a promoter of programs to provide support for student success, a trusted leader, and a superb human being.