



## SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE

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Dear Community Partner:

I am pleased to invite you to become a member of the committee for a new certificate program in Gerontology at San Diego City College. A person with your experience and insight would be the ideal person to assist us in designing course content and building interest and understanding between the school and community organizations.

The certificate is part of the college's new Institute for Human Development and would prepare students to become job-ready in positions that require skills and knowledge in human aging. The new program serves as a foundation for further academic achievement as well as training for immediate employment.

A well-educated workforce is imperative. With more than 30 million older adults approaching or beyond retirement age, a new skill-set and knowledge-base is required for success. The study of aging has been severely under-represented in our education system and Gerontology programs have faced more than their share of cuts.

San Diego City College, with a current enrollment of about 19,000 is uniquely positioned to help reverse this trend. The college has long been a leader in workforce readiness. The Institute for Human Development builds on a tradition of practical and academic instruction. By organizing relevant material from current offerings and adding key components, the new Gerontology Certificate Program will help bridge the gap for students wishing to pursue careers in the aging field. The Institute for Human Development has been established to address the demand for highly skilled employees in the Health and Human Services fields and to open a variety of doors for students to advance from secondary to higher education  
[www.sdcc.edu/humandevlopment](http://www.sdcc.edu/humandevlopment)

In order to create a Gerontology curriculum geared toward job-readiness, instruction will include field placement assignments. The certificate needs the involvement of leading agencies to ensure the proper blend of practical and academic instruction. To this end, we hope you will join us.

The executive curriculum development committee is expected to meet approximately 2 times per year. Initial offering will begin in spring, 2011. One of our instructors will call later this week to schedule a convenient time for a meeting of a select group of local leaders dedicated to serving older adults. We hope to have an initial meeting in Mid-November. I look forward to adding your voice as the new Certificate takes shape.

Sincerely,

*Veronica Ortega*

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