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El Camino College Honors Rancho Palos Verdes Resident Michael Montoya as 2011 Distinguished Alumni Awards Honoree

Photo available upon request.

El Camino College recently honored Rancho Palos Verdes resident and Southern California Edison Director Michael Montoya as a 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award honoree.

Montoya is one of five honorees of the Distinguished Alumni Awards, given to ECC alumni who have shown outstanding achievement in their chosen career, service to the community or area of endeavor, and have gained local, state, or national recognition for their contributions. Honorees were selected by a committee and represent the fields of art, medicine, politics, business, and education.

As the director of grid advancement for Southern California Edison's Transmission & Distribution Business Unit (TDBU), Montoya has 36 years of utility industry experience, including 30 years of evaluating and implementing smart grid technologies. The TDBU is responsible for power system technologies, automation, distribution of energy resources and technical innovation, and research and development.

Throughout his career, he has made many contributions through his technical and managerial roles. Before becoming the grid advancement director, he was director of the TDBU project management organization and director of Grid Operations, Protection, and Controls. Before that, he held several management positions.

Montoya attended El Camino College from 1978-81, then completed his bachelor's degree at the University of La Verne. He also has certificates in leadership from Pepperdine University and MIT.

He is also a member of several advisory boards, including California State University campuses in Long Beach and Los Angeles.

In addition to Montoya, the El Camino College Distinguished Alumni for 2011 include: David Benoit, musician/composer; Donald Brann, El Segundo Councilman and Vice President of the Da Vinci Schools' Board of Trustees; Pat Furey, Los Angeles County Principal Deputy County Counsel; and Cinna Toy-Wohlmuth, Doctor of Medicine.

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