



THE SAN FRANCISCO CASA PROGRAM

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SFCASA PRESENTS DR. MILTON A. GORDON, PRESIDENT OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON, WITH ITS 2010 AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO CHILDREN AND THE COMMUNITY

San Francisco, CA, April 8, 2010 – The San Francisco Court Appointed Special Advocate (SFCASA) Program, a non-profit organization providing advocacy and mentorship to abused and neglected children in foster care, announced today that Dr. Milton A. Gordon, President of California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), is the recipient of the SFCASA 2010 Award for Outstanding Service to Children and the Community. Dr. Gordon is receiving this award due to his commitment and passion for the Guardian Scholars program that began at CSUF in 1998. The Guardian Scholars is a comprehensive program that supports former foster youth in their efforts to gain a college education. The award will be presented on April 8, 2010 at SFCASA's Annual Board of Director's Luncheon, where Dr. Gordon will also be the featured speaker.

SFCASA recognizes Dr. Milton A. Gordon for his role as a higher education administrator, who has led CSUF into prominence as one of the nation's largest and most inclusive senior institutions of higher learning. In recognition of his leadership, Dr. Gordon received the 1999 César Chávez Community Service Award by the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County; the 1998 Manager of the Year Award by the Orange County Chapter of the Society of Advancement of Management; and the 1998 Orange County NAACP African American Citizens of Distinction Award. He has also been honored with the 1997 Education Award from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for his dedication as a Professor of Mathematics, and the 1994 Tree of Life Award for humanitarianism from the Jewish National Fund, which established the Milton A. Gordon Water Project in Ein Hanatziv, Israel.

"Dr. Gordon has successfully fostered the collaboration necessary to make college a reality for emancipated foster youth," said Sally Coates, SFCASA's Executive Director. "Under Dr. Gordon's leadership, a model program was developed that paved the way for other universities and colleges. The Guardian Scholars Program provides foster youth with the tools and resources they need to succeed. We are proud to honor Dr. Gordon with the Award for Outstanding Service to Children and the Community."

In San Francisco today, approximately 1,300 children are victims of abuse and neglect and have been placed under the jurisdiction of the juvenile dependency court. The majority of these children are in long term placement -- without prospect of returning to their parents. These children spend an average of three years in foster care and are repeatedly reassigned from one Human Services Agency Child Welfare Worker to another. Frequent change of residence, which for San Francisco's foster children is an average of five times, results in the disruption of their education and healthcare. They also experience trauma from being separated from familiar people and places, as well as having to adapt to new rules and environments.

About SFCASA

The San Francisco Court Appointed Special Advocate (SFCASA) Program trains and supervises community volunteers who, as officers of the court, work one-on-one with abused and neglected children in the dependency court system, assessing individual needs, advocating for needed services and serving as trusted mentors. SFCASA is the only agency operating in San Francisco dedicated exclusively to providing comprehensive advocacy and mentorship to abused and neglected children in foster care. For more information about the SFCASA Program or to learn how to become an SFCASA volunteer, call 415-398-8001 or visit www.sfcasa.org.

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