

# THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

**40** Years and Counting

**147** scholarship recipients for 2009–2010

More than **1,000** graduates

**80%** graduation rate

**20%** higher than the national average



BY JOYCE McCALLISTER

It's for the kids who cut onions with their families beginning at age 9. It's for kids who never thought a college education would be possible, and it's for kids who are a part of the Stockton community. Launched in 1969 as a result of a movement led by students, the Community Involvement Program (CIP) was established to increase diversity at Pacific, reaching out to students who are the first in their families to attend college.

Fall 2009 marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CIP. About 150 alumni and their families, faculty, staff and current students came together to celebrate in November. Representatives from the California State Legislature presented a resolution honoring the contribution of CIP to the community. Letters of congratulations were presented by representatives for Congressman Jerry McNerney and the City of Stockton.

The program continues to grow each year, with 147 scholarship recipients enrolled in the 2009–10 academic year. There is no limit on the number of participants, according to CIP Director Pov Chin '02, '03. "We want to reinforce the message that Pacific is here for everyone," she says.

The University provides full tuition scholarships and 40 housing grants; students are responsible for textbooks, supplies, computers, food, transportation and electronics. Chin is constantly on the lookout for additional resources to help students with these necessities. Pacific also provides support services through the SUCCESS program, including tutoring and counseling. And it all works: 80 percent graduate, nearly 20 percent more than the national average.

The program also has a strong focus on community service. "We are passionate to share what we've been given," says Chin, who is

the first CIP alumnus to direct the program. In the early years, community service hours were required. Now, Chin says, since many of these students have children and other family obligations that make demands on their time, community service participation is voluntary with incentives.

CIP students volunteer in a variety of projects throughout the year, including the annual bilingual financial aid workshop hosted at Pacific that draws upwards of 3,000 students and their families. When nearby Cleveland Elementary School lost funding for after-school tutoring, CIP students stepped in to help. Cleveland has identified so much with the University that it changed its colors to orange and black and its mascot to Tiger Cubs.

More than 1,000 students have graduated from Pacific through the CIP program — each one a unique success story. The most well-known CIP alumni are singer/actor Chris Isaak '80 and astronaut José Hernandez '85 (also a Pacific regent), who was the guest speaker at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Both he and Mary Aguirre '86, '89, San Joaquin County supervising deputy district attorney, were honored as Distinguished CIP Alumni at the event. And not only does the program benefit the local community through scholarships to Stockton youth, more than 60 percent of CIP alumni still live and work in the Stockton area, giving back to the community that nurtured them.

*Above: The California State Legislature honored the CIP program with a resolution recognizing its contribution to the community at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in November. Pictured left to right: Megan Mullins, representing Congressman Jerry McNerney; Pov Chin '02, '03, director of CIP; Max Vargas, for Assemblymember Cathleen Galgiani; and Dillon Delvo for State Senator Lois Wolk.*