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NORWALK, Calif. – December 2, 2010 – The Cerritos College Foundation presented the Alice Wang Scholarship to three students Thursday, November 18 during its board meeting.

Students Claudia Gonzalez, Mary Helen Moreno, and Maria Santos received the Alice Wang Scholarship which was established in honor of Alice Wang, the wife of Foundation board member J.P. Wang. The Wangs actively support academic endeavors of low-income students through scholarships. The scholarship recognizes single parents who major in child development and demonstrate outstanding academics.

Claudia Gonzalez, of Downey, returned to school last spring in order to provide a better life for her and her children. As the single mother of a 17-year-old, 14-year-old, and 13-year-old twins, her children are the best part of her life and Gonzalez could not picture a career in which children were not involved. She plans on completing her associate degree and transferring to a four-year university for her bachelor’s degree in child development with an emphasis in special education.

Mary Helen Moreno, of Whittier, has always had a love for children. As the mother of six, Moreno returned to school a few years ago to pursue a career in child development and speech language pathology. She is also taking sign language classes in order to increase her opportunities to work with students with speech impairments and other disabilities. Moreno currently works on campus in the Assessment Center through the CalWorks Program and is planning on transferring to Cal State Fullerton next fall to complete her bachelor’s degree.

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As a single mother, María Santos, of Bellflower, returned to school about two years ago and has earned a 4.0 GPA. Ever since she was a teenager, Santos has been interested in child development and in becoming a preschool teacher. She is thankful for the opportunities that Cerritos College has given her and looks forward to transferring to the University of La Verne in the spring of 2012.

The Cerritos College Foundation, a non-profit organization, serves as a charitable vehicle for the community, individuals and alumni, to assist with financial support of Cerritos College. Visit the Foundation online at www.cerritos.edu/ccf.

Cerritos College serves as a comprehensive community college for southeastern Los Angeles County. Communities within the college’s district include Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs and South Gate. Cerritos College offers degrees and certificates in more than 180 areas of study in nine divisions. Annually, more than 1,200 students successfully complete their course of studies, and enrollment currently averages 23,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at http://www.cerritos.edu/.

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