



2006 Oxnard College

# Youth Conference *La Voz*

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## Leadership event draws crowd

*More than 1,000 attend event at Oxnard College.*

By La Voz staff

From the movie industry to careers in chemistry, counseling, law enforcement, journalism and medicine, the second Oxnard College Youth Leadership Conference provided local high school students with a sampling of careers as they consider continuing their education at a community college or a university.

The program included a welcome by Dr. Lydia Ledesma-Reese, president of Oxnard College, and entertainment by Rico & Mambo of 103.3 FM "The Vibe." Organizers said more than 1,000 area high school students attended the conference.



Photo: La Voz staff

Rico & Mambo of 103.3 FM "The Vibe" kicked off the second Oxnard College Youth Leadership Conference on April 22, 2006.

## Presenters speak out about college, career goals

### Luis Güerca-Film

By Albert Romero  
*Rio Mesa High School*

Luis Güerca, the community outreach specialist technical coordinator for the Citywatch Television, spoke about careers in motion picture and television at the youth conference. He talked about film classes, education, opportunities, tips on software, equipment and equipment rentals. What influenced Güerca in his career choice was when he was a young child. His older brothers would always brag about movies that they saw and Güerca was too young to watch. He also had a big interest in music, pop culture and loved to go to the movies. Güerca attended Channel Islands High

School and was involved in video production. He then went to Oxnard and Ventura College where he studied film, film theory, reading and analyzing movies. He then transferred to the American Film Institute in Hollywood before attending Cal State Northridge, where he took classes in writing, editing, lighting, sound and cinematography.

His favorite subject was writing and his favorite thing to write about was family drama. Güerca took personal experiences and integrated them into his writing and also elaborating on them to make them sound more dramatic.

If students are seriously thinking about being in the film industry, they must decide if this is what they really want to do with their life and dedicate everything to it, he said. If it doesn't work out, taking other classes wouldn't hurt to fall back on. He recommended such schools as UCLA, USC, Brooks Institute and the American Film Institute.

### Andy Cawelti-Automotive

Andy Cawelti loves to solve puzzles — the automotive kind.

"Until this year I was working as a mechanic and doing troubleshooting," he said. "People were paying me big money to solve a puzzle and every day the puzzle was different."

Today, Cawelti is trying to pass on that love of puzzle-solving to his students at the Oxnard College automotive technology department, where he is an instructor.

"There is a great need for automotive mechanics and we're in one of the areas that begging for trained employees," he said. "It's been fun teaching the students those skills that translate to greater income."

"Taking a two- to three-year year college program is really a key toward achieving these goals," he said.