

## **SRJC Enforces No-Smoking Ordinance on Campuses and Sites**

At the opening of the fall semester starting August 17, 2009, the Santa Rosa Junior College District Police will begin issuing citations to enforce the City of Santa Rosa's no-smoking ordinance on and near the Santa Rosa Campus and SRJC's Southwest Center.

Smoking is prohibited not only *on* the college's property, but also *within 20 feet* of all Sonoma County Junior College District property. This means that smoking is also prohibited on the sidewalks and a portion of the city streets adjacent to college property.

City fines for smoking ordinance violations are up to \$100 for the first offense, \$250 for the second offense, and \$500 for each subsequent offense.

SRJC is currently working with Sonoma County and the cities of Windsor and Petaluma to extend the same enforcement on and near ***all*** college sites.

### **Background of SRJC's Smoke-free Policy**

In January 1989, the Board of Trustees of the Sonoma County Junior College District adopted a smoke-free environment policy to promote a safe and healthy atmosphere for students, faculty, staff, and visitors to its campuses, centers, and multiple sites. This policy was revised in April 2005 to clearly state that tobacco use is prohibited both indoors and outdoors on district-controlled property.

Despite this policy and clearly worded signage across SRJC sites, smoking has not only continued, but it has become increasingly worse. In response, the District's Associated Students initiated a move toward stronger policy enforcement, specifically the ability of District Police to issue citations to policy violators. It was determined that the best way for SRJC to issue citations is through the enforcement of state, county, and city laws and ordinances.

The District has entered into an agreement with the City of Santa Rosa that specifically grants SRJC's District Police the authority to enforce the city's non-smoking ordinances on or near District property, and with that agreement, SRJC's District's Police now has the legal authority to issue city citations to violators of the college's smoke-free policy, both on and within 20 feet of District property in Santa Rosa.

At SRJC's Board of Trustees meeting on July 14, 2009, Board Procedure 6.8.6P was revised - Smoke-Free Environmental Procedural Guidelines - to include the following language: "...the Sonoma County Junior College District Police shall enforce all state, county, and city ordinances that prohibit smoking on or near District Property."