Ronald Takaki and Elizabeth “Betita” Martinez join James Banks as headliners for this state-wide conference on equity and diversity, sponsored by De Anza College on May 1 and 2, 2008

**Professors James A. Banks** is Kerry and Linda Killinger Professor of Diversity Studies and Director of the Center for Multicultural Education at the University of Washington, Seattle. He is a past president of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) and the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS). He was a Spencer Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford during the 2005-2006 academic year. He is a member of the National Academy of Education. Professor Banks is a specialist in multicultural education and in social studies education and has written many articles, chapters, and books in these fields. His books include Teaching Strategies for Ethnic Studies, Cultural Diversity and Education: Foundations, Curriculum and Teaching, Diversity and Citizenship Education: Global Perspectives, and Race, Culture, and Education: The Selected Works of James A. Banks. Professor Banks is the editor of the *Handbook of Research on Multicultural Education* (Jossey-Bass) and the "Multicultural Education Series" of books published by Teachers College Press, Columbia University. Professor Banks holds honorary doctorates from five colleges and universities and The UCLA Medal from the University of California, Los Angeles, the University’s highest honor. In 2005, Professor delivered the 29th Annual Faculty Lecture at the University of Washington, the highest honor given to a professor at the University. In Fall 2007, he was the Tisch Distinguished Visiting Professor at Teachers College, Columbia University.

**Elizabeth “Betita” Martinez** has been a social justice activist and organizer for over 50 years. She has published six books and countless articles on social justice movements in the Americas. Best known is her acclaimed bilingual volume *500 Years of Chicano History in Pictures*, which became the basis for a video she co-directed. Her other books include *De Colores Means All of Us: Latina Views for a Multi-Colored Century* (South End Press), *Letters from Mississippi* (re-issued in 2002), and *The Youngest Revolution: A Personal Report on Cuba*. Her most recent work is *500 Years of Chicano Women’s History* (2008, Rutgers University Press). After graduating from Swarthmore College, which awarded her an honorary doctorate in 2000, Martinez worked as a United Nations researcher on colonialism in Africa, an editor at Simon & Schuster; and Books and Art Editor of The Nation. During the 1960s she was one of two Chicanas who served fulltime in the Black civil rights movement with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). In 1968 she joined the Chicano movement in New Mexico, where she edited the newspaper El Grito del Norte and co-founded the Chicano Communications Center, a barrio-based organization. Since moving to the Bay Area in 1976, she has taught Ethnic Studies and Women’s Studies in the California State University system, conducted anti-racist training workshops, and worked on Latino community issues. She ran for Governor of California on the Peace and Freedom Party ticket in 1982. She has spoken to hundreds of academic, student and community groups and received many awards. In 1997 she co-founded and currently directs the Institute for MultiRacial Justice in San Francisco, a resource center that aims to help build alliances between peoples of color and combat divisions. In 2001 she attended the U.N. World Conference Against Racism in South Africa as a delegate from the Women of Color Resource Center in Oakland, California. She is one of 1000 women from 150 countries nominated for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize.

**Ronald Takaki** is an internationally recognized scholar, has been a professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, for over 30 years. He provided the conceptual framework for the B.A. program and the Ph.D. program in Comparative Ethnic Studies as well as for the university's multicultural requirement for graduation. Takaki's 11 books include significant titles. *Iron Cages: Race and Culture in 19th Century America* (Knopf, 1979) has been critically acclaimed. *Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans* (Little, Brown, 1989) was selected by the San Francisco Chronicle as one of the best 100 non-fiction books of the 20th century. A *Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America* (Little, Brown, 1993) was chosen for an American Book Award and was hailed by Publishers Weekly as a "brilliant revisionist history of America that is likely to become a classic of multicultural studies." A passionate advocate for multiculturalism, Takaki debated Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. at the opening plenary session of the 1997 conference on American Diversity and American Foreign Policy. Takaki also debated Nathan Glazer four times, beginning in 1980, and changed his thinking as announced in *We Are All Multiculturalists Now*. In 1997, Takaki participated with President Bill Clinton to help brainstorm ideas for his major speech, "One America in the 21st Century: The President's Initiative on Race." The Los Angeles Times has described Takaki as "a minority Everyman. He is a rare hybrid, a multicultural scholar."

For further information about this conference, contact Marion Winters, De Anza College Office of Diversity
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