

61st Alumnus of the Year



Julius B. Thomas

Class of 1986

Julius B. Thomas was born and raised in Chicago, IL. He came to California on an assignment with the United States Air Force, where he served as an active duty airman. In 1984, Thomas enrolled at Riverside City College. During his time at RCC, he thrived as a scholar and athlete for the Tigers Men's basketball team. He was an outstanding student athlete who played basketball for Coach David Waxman. He was recruited by division one schools,

but decided to stay local and transferred to the University of California, Riverside, after graduating from RCC with an associate of arts degree in Psychology and Sociology.

He earned a double major in Psychology and Sociology from UCR and then obtained a master's degree in Educational Counseling and Guidance with a Pupil Personnel Services credential from California State, San Bernardino. For the last 17 years, Thomas has worked as a counselor at Rio Hondo College. He has served in many roles such as athletic counselor, transfer center director, and department chair. Thomas is a firm believer in giving back to the community college system that helped shape him.

Thomas is passionate about social justice and served as director of Ethnic, Racial & Minority for the California Community College Association. He currently serves on the board of directors for the National Education Association and is an active member of the California Teachers Association. His mission is to advocate and help formulate public education nationwide.