WONG MOSS AWARD

The Wong Moss Award for Outstanding Alumni was established by Board of Trustee member, Barbara Wong Moss, and her son John Moss to honor the memory of Barbara’s father, Wing Wong. He emigrated from China to the United States as a youth with no knowledge of the language. He supported himself by picking peaches, enrolled in high school and eventually entered The University of California at Berkeley where he focused on food chemistry. He was the first Asian to graduate with a technical degree.

Because of the Depression and subsequently World War II, he was employed first in a soap factory and was later able to work in his chosen field. As a food chemist, he helped apply the process of “hydrogenation” to food that prevents oil and water from separating. He was awarded a number of patents involving products such as salad dressing and peanut butter.

In his later years, he supported the elementary school process by sponsoring Chinese schools attended by the children of immigrants. The legacy that he leaves behind forms the basis for the Wong Moss Outstanding Alumni Award. Distinction in one’s profession, continuing interest in education, and service to the community are the key attributes of the award.

Ms. Moss’s 25-year service on the Board of Trustees demonstrates her commitment to the mission of the community college and its students. Knowing many community college students face adversity in their personal and academic lives and that success can be measured in many ways, the Wong Moss Award looks to bestow special recognition on community college alumni who have achieved distinction in their professional careers and through service to their communities.

The Wong Moss Award is unique among the College’s alumni awards because of the community service component. Twenty alumni have received this award since it was first presented in 1991. It is a testament to the vision of Barbara Wong Moss that this award has endured and is more relevant than ever today. John Moss has carried on the Wong Moss legacy since his mother’s passing in 2004.