



Thomas Mark Vetica, Ph.D.  
October 27, 1951 – September 27, 2009

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Dr. Tom Vetica, our esteemed colleague in anthropology and fellow instructor at TMCC, passed away Sunday Sept. 27, 2009. He was an outstanding professor and researcher and his passion for applied anthropology was evident to everyone who knew him. Vetica had a lifelong commitment to social justice and he was dedicated to the betterment of society. Through his position as a community builder with housing and urban development, he used his anthropology training to build coalitions to provide housing for less fortunate members of our Northern Nevada community. He was devoted to the idea that through collaboration, partnership, education, respect of culture and diversity we could achieve tangible solutions to social problems plaguing our community and our world.

*“While the poor of the world continue knocking on the doors of the rich, the world of affluence runs the risk of no longer hearing those knocks, on account of a conscience that can no longer distinguish what is human.”* Tom Vetica

He held a master of arts degree in theology from the Washington Theological Union and master of arts and doctorate degrees in anthropology from the University of Florida (1993). Vetica had extensive international and domestic experience in applied anthropology with a lifelong commitment to civil rights and social justice. He worked with community-based organizations in the West Indies, Caribbean and Latin America and served as training director for Peace Corps Guyana. His interests were varied. He also conducted pioneering research with Corporate CEOs on social responsibility, and he worked with minority communities and community-based organizations. His expertise was in the areas of capacity building, empowerment, community development, and coalition building projects. Since moving to Northern Nevada in 2000 his work included outreach on civil rights and fair housing, capacity building and resource development of nonprofit organizations, assistance to several Northern Nevada Tribal Housing Authorities to enhance resources for housing and community development needs, and to help reduce homelessness, he organized the Reno Area Alliance for the Homeless (RAAH).

Vetica’s passing caught us by surprise, yet we will use our recognition of his professional achievements and our fond memories of him as colleague, teacher and friend, to recommit ourselves to the work of training the next generation of applied anthropologists and to finding ways to improve our community and ourselves through direct action. We in anthropology and at

TMCC were privileged to be associated with Vetica and we will miss him greatly. As we mourn our loss, we celebrate a life well lived. To support ongoing work as his legacy, collections are being accepted under the Thomas Vetica Memorial Fund to be used for grants to homeless service providers working with the Reno Area Alliance for the Homeless. If you wish to make a contribution checks are being accepted at:

The Community Foundation of Western Nevada  
Thomas Vetica Memorial Fund  
1885 S Arlington Ave # 103  
Reno, NV 89509-3370  
775-333-5499