

Alumni of the Year Award
Ms. Leela Rai
Alumna of the Year, 2002

Presentation at the May, 2002 Yuba College (Marysville) graduation ceremony, by Yuba College Foundation President Baldev (Bob) Singh. Mr. Singh was president from Fall, 2001 through Fall, 2003.

I am very pleased to introduce to you this year's Yuba College Alumna of the Year, Ms. Leela C. Rai.

This is the twelfth year in which the Yuba College Foundation has sponsored an Alumni of the Year award and it is a tradition of which we have become very proud.

I have known Leela Rai for nearly her entire life. I watched her grow up here in the Yuba-Sutter area and have witnessed, in open-eyed amazement, each success that she has added to her portfolio.

Most of us at Yuba College know Leela best as a longstanding member of the Yuba College Board of Trustees. However, Leela's name can be found on the leadership roles of many prominent organizations throughout this region. She is currently President and CEO of the *Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce*, and is a Board Member for *Yuba-Sutter United Way*, while serving as well on the Boards of *Valley Vision* and *Yuba-Sutter Economic Development Corporation*. Leela's other Board affiliation is with the *East Indians for Community Enhancement*, a group which she helped found in 1994.

Yuba College's Alumni of the Year Award will not be the first recognition of Leela's achievements. As recently as the year 2000, Leela was named Woman of the Year, a regional recognition accorded by the California State Legislature, as well as honorary awards from Beale Air Force Base and a national award known as Outstanding Young Women of America.

Yuba College served as a springboard to Leela's outstanding educational achievements as well. After graduating from Yuba in the early 1970s, Leela went on to California State University at Sacramento to earn a baccalaureate degree in Business Administration and a Masters Degree in International Affairs.

I present to you, this year's Alumna of the Year, Ms. Leela Rai.