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Foundation for California Community Colleges commends Santa Rosa Junior College

First Community College to reach the California Community Colleges Scholarship Endowment fundraising challenge

SACRAMENTO – May 29, 2009 – The Foundation for California Community Colleges recognizes Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) as the first community college in California to fulfill its fundraising goal of \$887,307 for the California Community Colleges Scholarship Endowment challenge.

“We are pleased to recognize Santa Rosa Junior College for being the first among California’s community colleges to reach its endowment fundraising goal,” says Paul Lanning, President and CEO of the Foundation for California Community Colleges. “We know that many more colleges are making significant strides, and we are here to support them in their efforts in any way we can.”

SRJC was able to meet its fundraising goal through a very generous bequest from the estate of Fred R. Lahm. Lahm and his brother Charles established the F. & C. Lahm Family Memorial Scholarship Fund at SRJC in 1989. Charles Lahm was instrumental in directing his brother’s estate gift to the California Community Colleges Scholarship Endowment and naming the scholarship awards the “Osher/Lahm Scholarships.”

The California Community Colleges Scholarship Endowment was established to support student success and create learning opportunities through a permanent scholarship fund. Launched in May 2008 when the historic \$50 million commitment from The Bernard Osher Foundation was announced, the three-year match fundraising campaign will create a \$100 million endowment to provide scholarships for thousands of California students annually. The campaign also gives community colleges the opportunity to attract new donors to become supporters of the colleges’ educational programs. Only one year into the challenge, SRJC is the first among California’s 110 colleges to meet its goal, while more than 25 other community colleges are also closing in on their target goals. To date, community colleges across the state have raised \$5 million for the California Community Colleges Scholarship Endowment.



“In our time of need, we have been given a remarkable opportunity by Fred and Charles Lahm and The Bernard Osher Foundation,” says Santa Rosa Junior College Superintendent/President Dr. Robert F. Agrella. “We are truly grateful to these men for their vision and support of education in California’s community colleges. With the soaring cost of attending college and more students seeking scholarship support, the matched contribution equals \$1.77 million and will provide around \$88,500 annually for Osher/Lahm scholars.”

As the California Community Colleges Scholarship Endowment’s managing organization, the Foundation for California Community Colleges provides fundraising tools and support to community colleges to maximize their fundraising efforts. Colleges may access additional information and resources at www.SupportTheEndowment.org. Click “Info for Colleges” or contact the California Community Colleges Scholarship Endowment at (916) 498-6725 or endowment@foundationccc.org.

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The Foundation for California Community Colleges is the official nonprofit foundation to the California Community Colleges’ Board of Governors and Chancellor’s Office. The Foundation’s mission is to benefit, support, and enhance the missions of the California Community College system, the largest higher education system in the nation. Incorporated in 1998, the Foundation works with Community Colleges and partner organizations to manage donations, grants, programs, and services that drive excellence in education while saving millions of dollars for colleges each year. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit corporation and receives no direct state or public support. *For more information, visit www.foundationccc.org.*