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**Foundation for California Community Colleges  
Names Paul Lanning as President and Chief Executive Officer**

**SACRAMENTO** – Dr. Paul Lanning, Assistant Vice-President for University Advancement at the University of the Pacific, has been named President and Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation for California Community Colleges effective August 27, 2007. The Foundation is the official auxiliary organization supporting the California Community Colleges system. Lanning will succeed Foundation President and founder Dr. Larry Toy, who began the organization in 1998 and will stay on as President Emeritus.

The Foundation, which will celebrate its tenth anniversary next year, conducted an extensive search before naming Lanning to the position.

“Paul Lanning, following in the footsteps of Larry Toy, has all of the qualities and attributes that will help him guide the Foundation to its next level of growth,” said James Sargen, Chairman of the Foundation Board of Directors. “Lanning has the diversity of background and the depth of experience that fulfilled the requirements established by the Board of Directors. I have every confidence that he will prove to be an effective leader in furthering the goals of the Foundation.”

Lanning’s background includes experience in higher education and the community colleges, as well as entrepreneurial roles in the private sector. Prior to joining the University of the Pacific in 2002 where he played a key role in development and fundraising, Lanning co-founded Spotlight Interactive and was vice president of marketing and business development for the web-based start-up company Internet Extra Corporation. As CEO of Today’s Communications, Inc. in 1999, he was the recipient of the Entrepreneur Business of the Year Award from the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. From 1996-1997, Lanning served as the Associate Commissioner of Athletics for the Community College League of California.

Lanning holds a doctorate of education in education administration and leadership from the University of the Pacific, in addition to a master’s degree in sport management from the University of Massachusetts and a bachelor’s in political science from the University of California, San Diego.

"I very much look forward to assuming this important leadership role with the Foundation for California Community Colleges," said Lanning. "The California Community College system is a tremendous resource for the state and the nation. The Foundation provides valuable support for the wide array of education and workforce training programs offered in the system and improves access to these programs for people from all walks of life. It is truly an honor to have the opportunity to do such important work."

Jeff Thompson, the Foundation's Vice-President of Learning Programs, commented that he is confident in Lanning's abilities to advance the mission of the Foundation. "I am enthused by the combination of personal energy, leadership, business entrepreneurial experience, and philanthropic prowess and success that Lanning brings to our foundation. I am confident that he will embrace and advance the goals of our organization. I am very optimistic about the Foundation's future."

*The Foundation for California Community Colleges is the official auxiliary organization to the California Community Colleges' Board of Governors, Chancellor, and System Office. The Foundation provides programs and services that promote excellence in education while increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the California Community Colleges system, the largest higher educational system in the nation. The Foundation's mission is to benefit, support, and enhance the missions of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the Foundation for California Community Colleges, please visit [www.foundationccc.org](http://www.foundationccc.org).*

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