



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 27, 2008

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Foundation for California Community Colleges' Kerry Wood Becomes Certified Fund Raising Executive

Certification Demonstrates Mastery of Profession

SACRAMENTO—Kerry Wood, Executive Director of Resource Development for the Foundation for California Community Colleges, has become a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE), a certification that demonstrates a mastery of the field and is held by fewer than 5,000 fundraising professionals in the world.

The CFRE is designated for professionals who demonstrate the knowledge, skills and commitment to the highest standards of ethical and professional practice in serving the philanthropic sector. Currently, there are 4,929 professionals who are CFRE, and 4,113 of them are in the United States.

“Kerry Wood is a consummate professional who has successfully launched our Foundation’s first-ever strategy for resource development, a critical area given the California Community Colleges’ current challenge to raise \$50 million over the next three years,” said Foundation President and CEO, Paul I. Lanning, Ed.D. “This certification, combined with her already extensive experience in the fundraising field, adds to the value she brings to the team and the California Community Colleges. We congratulate her on her success.”

Wood joined the Foundation in March to launch the resource development department, in anticipation of the Foundation receiving \$50 million, the largest-ever gift to a community college system in the nation, from the Bernard Osher Foundation in May. Wood is working with local community colleges and the community to secure funding to raise a matching \$50 million, which will result in a \$100 million endowment for California Community College student scholarships in perpetuity.

“It is a thrill to help build upon our organization’s culture of philanthropy and to be working with California Community Colleges to raise awareness about the need for philanthropic giving to this important segment of higher education,” said Wood. “The CFRE designation is an honor, as it demonstrates the pursuit of excellence and high standards among those of us in the philanthropic field.”

Endorsed by 19 professional organizations, CFRE is the only internationally recognized baseline credential for fundraising professionals. To become certified, a fundraising professional must pass a rigorous exam, have at least five years of paid, professional leadership experience, and have demonstrated fundraising performance and exhibit a commitment to continuing education.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Wood served with Mercy Foundation for 12 years. In total, she has more than 15 years of experience in development and communications roles, including nearly three years as Director of Institutional Advancement for the Crocker Art Museum. A community college alumna, Wood holds a bachelor's degree in business marketing and a master of arts in communication studies, both from California State University, Sacramento. She is currently the President of the California Capital Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

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The Foundation for California Community Colleges is the official foundation to the California Community Colleges' Board of Governors, Chancellor, and System 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.*
