



NEWS Release

NO. 06-17

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
COLUMBIA COLLEGE • MODESTO JUNIOR COLLEGE

CONTACT:
Nick Stavrianoudakis
Director of External Affairs
Tel. (209)575-6987
stavrianoudakisn@yosemite.edu

YCCD Chancellor to Step Down

July 20, 2006

MODESTO, CA – Dr. James H. Williams, Chancellor of the Yosemite Community College District (YCCD) Board of Trustees since June 2004 will be retiring from the position in January 2007. The YCCD Board of Trustees Chair Anne DeMartini announced at their July 12 Board meeting that the Board approved extended medical leave for Chancellor Williams through to his retirement in January 2007.

In a memo to staff, Dr. Williams expressed “it is with mixed emotions and deep regret that I inform you that I will be ending my tenure as Chancellor effective July 24, 2006. I will be taking extended sick leave, and that will be followed by retirement in early January 2007. My illness is due to kidney failure and other medical complications.” Board Vice-chair Pat Dean added that Dr. Williams is in need of a kidney with blood type B+.

Chair DeMartini states that “the entire YCCD Board and staff are deeply saddened to learn how seriously ill Dr. Williams is. As CEO of a multi-college District, we know that he needs time to rest and concentrate on his health. We thank him for everything he has done to lead YCCD in his tenure as Chancellor.”

According to Dr. Williams, “it has been an honor and privilege to serve the District in the capacities of MJC President and District Chancellor. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with such outstanding faculty, classified staff, and administrators.”

Williams served as President, Interim Chancellor and Chancellor during his tenure at YCCD. As Chancellor, Williams provided leadership to the District, which covers six counties and 4,500 square miles with two colleges, Modesto Junior College and Columbia College, and over 30,000 students, a staff of over 1,300 and an annual budget of over \$100 million.

Serving as Interim Chancellor, Williams led the District to a successful \$326 million bond measure that will change the face of the district’s two colleges, Modesto Junior College (MJC) and Columbia College, for many years to come. Prior to his leadership at the District Office, Williams was President of MJC since January 2002.

“Until such time as an Interim Chancellor is appointed, I am convinced that YCCD will continue to operate smoothly under the very capable leadership of the three vice chancellors and two college presidents,” stated Dr. Williams.

His leadership philosophy was expressed in a document he wrote entitled *Management Manifesto: Moving in Harmony Toward the Twenty-first Century*. In it he expresses his expectations that everything

we do must include a serious attempt to embrace the values of integrity, interconnectedness, teamwork, flexibility, passion, and compassion.

Dr. Williams is the fourth YCCD Chancellor since MJC and Columbia College merged to form the District in 1968. The first superintendent was Dr. J. Kenneth Rowland (1968-1976), who was followed by Dr. Tom Van Groningen (1976-1992), Dr. Pamila Fisher (1992-2004), then Dr. James Williams (2004-2007).

Next, the Board will decide the process of appointing an Interim Chancellor. According to Chair DeMartini, "The Board is planning to have a special session later this month to discuss our options. Most likely we will seek to employ an Interim Chancellor before we begin a nationwide search for a permanent replacement for Dr. Williams."

###