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YOSEMITE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
COLUMBIA COLLEGE • MODESTO JUNIOR COLLEGE

NEWS Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MJC SELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

MODESTO, CA – October 22, 2001 – Dr. James H. Williams has accepted an offer by the Yosemite Community College District (YCCD) Board of Trustees to be the new president of Modesto Junior College (MJC) effective January 1, 2002. Williams will replace interim President Stan Hodges, who began on July 2, 2001.

Williams is currently President of Arapahoe Community College in Littleton, Colorado where he has served since 1999. From 1995-1999, Williams was President of Spokane Community College in Spokane, Washington. He has expanded many programs and services and is particularly known for developing effective means to address the educational needs of students with a focus on excellence and learning communities. His philosophy is 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 in the months and years ahead must include a serious attempt to embrace the following values: Integrity, interconnectedness, teamwork, flexibility, passion, and compassion.”

Williams received his Ph.D. from Washington State University in Education in 1983 with an emphasis on Higher Education Administration. He received his M.S. degree in 1974 from Pepperdine University in Urban Planning and Development. Prior to his community college presidencies, he also served 18 years in higher education at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, with his last position being Dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences.

Dr. Pamela Fisher, YCCD Chancellor affirms, “We are extremely pleased to have attracted someone of

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Dr. Williams' caliber. He is an experienced president with a track record of success in meeting students' needs in a variety of ways. He is also known for his integrity and for his concern for all people."

Chancellor Fisher adds "Dr. Williams has built numerous positive partnerships with the business community and has been actively involved in workforce development," as evidenced by his most recent accomplishments in Colorado.

Williams created the Colorado Center for Professional Development, which works with the business community and has generated \$1 million through contract training in its first year of operation. He also opened a state-of-the-art facility called the University Center at Chaparral in Parker, Colorado. It is a partnership between Arapahoe Community College, University of Colorado at Denver, Southeast Business Partnership, and the University of Denver. It is considered to be an exemplary model of a higher education and workforce development one-stop shop.

Williams' selection comes after a nationwide search, which began in May. It was conducted by Dr. Abel Sykes, a consultant with the Association of Community College Trustees. A series of focus groups were conducted at MJC with various constituencies to gather input regarding challenges the college would face in the next five years and the skills and qualities desired in a new president. The input was included in the position announcement. The search produced 35 qualified candidates. A 16-member committee comprised of MJC and YCCD staff, students, and the community interviewed semi-finalists. The pool was further narrowed by the Board of Trustees who then introduced the two finalists to the campus community on October 18.

Dr. Williams today said, "I am very excited about joining the Modesto Junior College family. The Yosemite Community College District and Modesto Junior College have a rich historical legacy, an outstanding faculty committed to academic excellence, and exemplary staff and administrators all committed to ensuring student success."

That enthusiasm is shared by Chancellor Fisher who believes that "Dr. Williams will be an asset to the Stanislaus County community as well as to MJC!"

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