



NEWS Release

NO. 02-12

CONTACT:

Nick Stavrianoudakis
Director of External Affairs
Tel. (209)575-6959

stavrianoudakisn@yosemite.cc.ca.us

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
COLUMBIA COLLEGE • MODESTO JUNIOR COLLEGE

YCCD CHANCELLOR TO LEAD NATIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE ORGANIZATION

MODESTO, CA – July 1, 2002 – Dr. Pamila Fisher, Chancellor of the Yosemite Community College District (YCCD) has been elected for a one-year term as Chair of the Board of Directors of the American Association of Community Colleges headquartered in Washington D.C., effective July 1.

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) is the primary advocacy organization for the nation's community college system. The Association represents over 1,100 degree-granting institutions and 10 million students and is the largest higher educational system in the world. AACC has been the national voice for community colleges since 1920.

Fisher was elected by her peers throughout the United States to represent them on the Board of Directors, and then elected by her colleagues on the Board to serve as Chair. According to George Boggs, President and CEO of AACC “she (Fisher) is respected throughout the country as a model leader and an articulate spokesperson for the values of community colleges and what they do to advance educational opportunity for all people. She is well known for her tireless work to develop leaders and to promote tolerance and understanding.”

Fisher, who will continue to serve as Chancellor of YCCD (which includes Modesto Junior College and Columbia College) has spent the past 10 years as Chancellor and 18 years previously at YCCD and MJC as an administrator and faculty member.

Issues that Fisher plans to address at the national level, which will have a direct impact locally, include strengthening the role community colleges play in meeting the nursing shortage, providing qualified employees to meet the demands of the workplace, and ensuring adequate financial aid is available to local students. Fisher also is leading the associations' efforts to develop programs designed to attract and prepare community college educators for leadership positions.

Fisher stated, "It is an honor to represent the community colleges across the country that play such a critical role in shaping our nation's future. As a native of this area, it also is rewarding to bring recognition to the Yosemite Community College District and the Central Valley and Mother Lode areas of California."

She has won numerous honors while at YCCD, including most recently, the "Regional Equity Award," "Woman of Courage Award," and "John Rice Diversity Award." Fisher has also served in national and state leadership positions such as President of the American Association of Women in Community Colleges and President of the California Association of Community Colleges. She is active in a variety of community and professional activities, and has a lengthy list of published articles related to leadership, welfare reform, diversity, community college funding, economic development, and child care to her credit.

Fisher's educational roots are deeply embedded in the Central Valley, as a former graduate of Modesto Junior College (A.A.), California State University, Stanislaus (B.A. and M.A.) and the University of the Pacific (Ed.D.).

###