



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 11, 2010

Contact: Nick Stavrianoudakis, Director of Public Affairs: (209)575-6959, stavrianoudakisn@yosemite.edu

Dr. Richard A. Jones Named Interim President of Columbia College

MODESTO, CA –Dr. Richard A. Jones was selected by the Yosemite Community College District (YCCD) Board of Trustees at their Regular Board Meeting on August 11, to become the new Columbia College Interim President effective August 23, 2010.

Dr. Jones' career includes extensive experience in higher education administration. Most recently he served interim stints as Superintendent/President of Barstow CCD, and also worked in several other interim capacities including: President/Superintendent of Palomar CCD, President/Superintendent of Victor Valley CCD, and Chancellor of South Orange County CCD. These interim community college leadership roles follow an extensive career as Chancellor of San Bernardino Community College District, President of Clarke College in Vancouver, WA, and founding President of Cerro Coso Community College.

Dr. Jones replaces former Columbia College President, Joan E. Smith. Smith was recently promoted to head the District serving as Interim Chancellor on August 1. According to Dr. Smith, "We were lucky to find Dr. Jones. I am sure the students and the Columbia College community will welcome his vast years of experience and expertise in community colleges."

YCCD Board Chair Pat Dean stated "we're very pleased that Dr. Jones agreed to be Interim President. He has a long history in community college leadership roles throughout the state and should be a good addition to our wonderful college."

Jones received his education doctorate degree (Ed.D) from UCLA in higher education, management and leadership; a master's degree (M.A.) from San Jose State University in curriculum and teaching of English; bachelor of arts degree (B.A.) from San Jose State University in English and journalism; and associate of arts degree (A.A.) from San Bernardino Valley College.