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Date: May 18, 2011

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

YCCD to Benefit from former Chancellor's Generosity

MODESTO, CA – The Yosemite Community College District (YCCD) announced today a \$100,000 donation from former YCCD Chancellor Tom Van Groningen in 1997 targeted to provide leadership development training to YCCD educational leaders will finally be utilized. Since the donation, interest has accumulated and the total endowment is now worth approximately \$177,000.

During the past few years, the YCCD had considered different options on how to utilize the funds for professional development, but hadn't come to a solution until now. Given the current economic and budget woes that all community colleges are experiencing, YCCD Chancellor Joan Smith stated "We couldn't have tapped these resources at a better time. We couldn't be more grateful to Dr. Van Groningen for his foresight years ago to establish a fund that would generate additional funds and allow YCCD to develop its leaders."

"Staff development has fallen by the wayside in recent years, and the utilization of his donation will certainly bring a welcome glimmer of optimism to YCCD leaders," she added. Van Groningen's original gift was inspired by an experience he had working as a college administrator in the 1970's where he received a stipend from the University of Southern California to continue his studies toward earning a doctorate.

The first of many leadership activities to be funded by Van Groningen's donation will commence May 19, 2011 in Oakdale. "Instructional Leadership" will be the topic presented by Illinois-based About Learning, Inc., who is in the business of developing instructional materials and providing educational and leadership services.

Tom Van Groningen served as YCCD Chancellor from 1976-1991. He is the current Vice-President of the Modesto Irrigation District Board of Directors.

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