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CIVIC ALLIANCE TO PREVIEW STATE OF THE REGION REPORT

*Events will explore latest data on trends and status
of criteria for a healthy quality of life in Ventura County*

CAMARILLO, Calif. (Jan. 25, 2011) – The Ventura County Civic Alliance invites community members to receptions on Feb. 2 and 3, previewing its next State of the Region Report.

The free events in Oxnard and Thousand Oaks will feature a presentation by a California Lutheran University economics professor as well as a VCCA panel discussion analyzing data from the report and drawing implications through its 3E lens.

One of VCCA’s guiding principles is the 3E balance, said the new VCCA Chair Sandy Smith, adding the “E’s” stand for economy, environment and social equity.

“We believe looking at the 3E balance is an important contribution to our civic discussions about where the county finds itself and where it should be going,” Smith said.

The VCCA publishes the State of the Region Report every five years. It offers a status report on 12 quality-of-life standards in Ventura County by analyzing Census data and CLU research. The four variables being explored include the general economy, education, social services and land use/housing.

“Given government’s fiscal challenges and the dialogue about funding priorities, these four areas drive many issues that confront our region,” Smith said. “We feel this is a good time to discuss what is happening, what has changed from what we thought was going to happen three years ago and what the implications are for our communities.”

This update is funded through a grant from the Fairburn Fund for Community Research, established at VCCF to support research on issues important to the wider community of Ventura County.

CLU Professor Jamshid Damooei, a former director general of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance in Iran and senior economist of the United Nations Development Program, will present findings from the State of the Region update.

The panel will compare the analysis from the 2007 State of the Region – what that report had projected as trends – with what the most recent data indicates and its implications for Ventura County residents. With the discussion panel, the Civic Alliance aims to focus on priority community issues and explore methods to solve them.

A question-and-answer session with the panel and Damooei will follow.

The entire State of the Region Report is scheduled to be updated in 2012, when more complete data from the 2010 census will be available.

The Feb. 2 event will take place from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on CLU's Oxnard Campus, 2201 Outlet Center Drive, Suite 600, Oxnard. It includes a wine and cheese reception.

The Lundring Events Center, 60 W. Olsen Road, on CLU's Thousand Oaks campus will be the site of the event from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Feb. 3. Breakfast will be included.

To RSVP, contact Katrina Maksimuk at (805) 988-0196, Ext. 114, or kmaksimuk@vccf.org.

About the Ventura County Civic Alliance

An initiative of the Ventura County Community Foundation, the Ventura County Civic Alliance is a regional collaborative of civic leaders representing a balanced mix of 3E/economic, environmental and social-equity perspectives. Its mission is to work together to promote a healthy and sustainable future for Ventura County. For more information, go online to

www.vccf.org/programs/civicalliance/index.shtml

About the Ventura County Community Foundation

VCCF is a family of charitable funds with combined assets of \$102.6 million. Its mission is to promote and enable philanthropy to improve our community for good for ever, which it does through grantmaking, scholarships and leadership training programs through the Center for Nonprofit Leadership. VCCF has been certified in compliance with national standards by the Council on Foundations, the highest form of peer review in the United States. For more information, visit vccf.org or contact VCCF at (805) 988-0196.

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