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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEAN'S LEADERSHIP CIRCLE DEMONSTRATES FUNDRAISING PROWESS

*Campaign Launched to Support Auditorium in New Paul Merage School of Business
Building*

Million Dollar Milestone Reached in Endowed Professorship Campaign

Irvine, Calif. – (January 12, 2012) -- The Dean's Leadership Circle (DLC), a business leadership network at UC Irvine's Paul Merage School of Business, continues to prove their ability to raise important funding in the name of education. Last year they successfully completed a \$1 million campaign to fund the Dean's Leadership Circle Endowed Professorship. This year a new \$3 million campaign is underway to support the auditorium proposed for the new business school building on UC Irvine's campus.

"The DLC has become a powerhouse in fundraising. Even in this weakened economy, our organization has shown 'where there's a will, there's a way.' If you value something enough, you're willing to go the extra mile to ensure success. That's exactly what the DLC is doing in its efforts to support higher education and The Paul Merage School of Business," said Gregory R. Lai, MBA '88, CFA, Managing Director of Affinity Investment Advisors, LLC.

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2/2/2 Dean's Leadership Circle Demonstrates Fundraising Prowess

Andrew J. Policano, dean of The Paul Merage School of Business, was selected as the recipient of the inaugural Dean's Leadership Circle Endowed Professorship as an acknowledgement of his exceptional scholarship. His selection was made through a formal University process by a faculty committee tasked with identifying senior faculty members for recognition with a Professorship for their contributions. Policano is a renowned macro economist and faculty member of the Merage School. He joined the school in 2005 and shortly thereafter secured the largest donation in the school's history through a generous donation by entrepreneur Paul Merage. Policano was also responsible with a group of alumni for establishing the Dean's Leadership Circle in a move to build a premier business network for executives in southern California and beyond. Since its inception, the DLC has raised over \$2.8 million in pledges from more than 400 dedicated members.

"It's a wonderful testament that the very person who was instrumental in founding our organization would be the first to be honored by its success. I'm grateful that the faculty committee selected Andy for this award. What better way to honor someone who has mentored so many of us and served as an example to so many more," said Pamela M. Adams, MBA '98, CFP®, Irvine Financial Advisor.

The DLC is wasting little time savoring the success of their efforts last year and have already launched the "Best Seat in the House" campaign to raise funds to support an auditorium slated for the new business school building on the UC Irvine campus. With a ground breaking slated for early 2013, the building is the only new building construction approved in the UC system in the current budget, prompted by the tremendous growth of the Merage School and its first full class of undergraduate business majors graduating this spring with the MBA and PhD candidates.

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3/3/3 Dean's Leadership Circle Demonstrates Fundraising Prowess

About the Dean's Leadership Circle

The overall mission of the Dean's Leadership Circle (DLC) is to help move the Merage School to the top tier of all business schools through private support from alumni, corporate and community leaders. The DLC is the premier business network for executives in southern California and beyond. The group draws members from diverse industries that have a special interest in supporting management education at a world-class university while building stronger ties in the business community. For more information about the DLC visit merage.uci.edu/go/dlc.

About The Paul Merage School of Business at UC Irvine

The Paul Merage School of Business at UC Irvine offers four dynamic MBA programs – plus PhD and undergraduate business degrees – that deliver its thematic approach to business education: sustainable growth through strategic innovation. It graduates leaders with the exceptional ability to help grow their organizations through analytical decision-making, innovation and collaborative execution. In-class and on-site experiences with real-world business problems give students the edge needed to help companies compete in today's global economy.

Six Centers of Excellence and an Executive Education program provide numerous and varied opportunities for students and the business community at large to enhance their education experience and update their professional expertise. While the Merage School is relatively young, it has quickly grown to consistently rank among the top 10% of all AACSB-accredited programs through exceptional student recruitment, world-class faculty, a strong alumni network and close individual and corporate relationships. For more information visit the website at merage.uci.edu.

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