FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Irvine Chamber and The Paul Merage School of Business Host Business Outlook 2015
Economic Outlook Event Features CNN’s Chief Business Correspondent Christine Romans and UC Irvine Economist Andrew J. Policano

IRVINE, Calif., (January 14, 2015) – Christine Romans, CNN’s chief business correspondent, along with noted UC Irvine economist Andrew J. Policano, will serve as keynote speakers for the UC Irvine Paul Merage School Business Outlook 2015 discussing the current economic climate and predictions for the year ahead. The event will be held January 30, 2015 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Hotel Irvine Jamboree Center.

Romans co-anchors CNN’s morning show, "Early Start" with John Berman. She is also CNN's chief business correspondent and the host of CNN Money. Romans reports on the economy, politics and international business and is regularly featured on CNN International. She is known as CNN's explainer-in-chief of all things money, translating complicated international finance to kitchen table economics. She is the author of two books: “How to Speak Money” (Wiley 2011) and “Smart is the New Rich” (Wiley 2010). Romans' coverage focuses on the latest breaking developments in the current economic crises and what they mean to Americans and their money.

Policano serves as Dean's Leadership Circle Endowed Professor of Economics/Public Policy, and academic director of the Center for Investment and Wealth Management (CIWM) at the Merage School. Previously he served as dean of the Merage School, from 2004 to 2013, during which, more than $55 million was pledged to support the School’s vision and mission. Highly recognized, the Merage School consistently ranks among the top five to 10 percent of accredited business schools in the world.

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Prior to arriving at UC Irvine, Policano was dean of the School of Business at the University of Wisconsin, Madison for 10 years. He received his doctorate from Brown University in economics, and his work in macroeconomics has been widely published.

“Through the Merage School’s long-standing partnership with the Irvine Chamber, the Business Outlook conference delivers powerful insight on the local, national and global economies. The business leaders who attend the annual event come away with critical information and innovative approaches to improve both their business and personal financial health,” said Policano.

With approximately 1,000 business leaders and professionals in attendance, Business Outlook 2015, sponsored this year by Wells Fargo, is the Irvine Chamber’s most popular annual event.

“Orange County is a diverse and innovative region that is driving economic growth in California and the nation. Whether you are from a multimillion dollar corporation or a small community business, this breakfast provides local and national economic information that will help you plan and make effective decisions for your business,” said Wells Fargo’s Orange County Regional President Ben Alvarado.

“This event brings together leading business professionals and educators to analyze key economic issues affecting our economic climate,” said Tallia Hart, president and CEO of the Irvine Chamber. “We look forward to another ‘must-attend’ event, where we connect with hundreds of business owners and share ideas to strengthen Orange County’s position as a global business hub.”

Ticket prices start at $55. A limited number of seats and table sponsorships are available for this annual event. For more information or to register for the event, visit merage.uci.edu/go/BusinessOutlook2015, or call 949.824.2675.
About the Irvine Chamber of Commerce
The Irvine Chamber of Commerce is one of the most influential Chambers in Orange County, representing more than 800 businesses in the area. The Irvine Chamber’s mission is to promote an economic climate that strengthens the competitiveness of local businesses while offering members a wide range of benefits, services, programs and information. The organization serves as a catalyst for local economic growth by: promoting the city as a dynamic business and tourism destination; providing valuable training and networking opportunities; and advocating for the interests of the business community with federal, state and local officials. The Irvine Chamber remains the largest business organization in Orange County and one of the most innovative in the nation, and has received a Four Star Accreditation with the United States Chamber of Commerce. For more information, visit www.irvinechamber.com.

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, specialty masters and undergraduate business degrees – that graduate business leaders with the exceptional ability to help grow their organizations through strategic innovation, analytical decision-making, information technology and collaborative execution. While the Merage School is relatively young, it has quickly grown to consistently rank among the top five to 10 percent of all AACSB-accredited programs through exceptional student recruitment, world-class faculty, a strong alumni network and close relationships with both individual business executives and global corporations. Additional information is available at http://merage.uci.edu/

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