Cisco Systems Executive Named Commencement Speaker for The Paul Merage School of Business Class of 2012

June 17 Ceremony to Include First Full Class of Undergraduate Business Students

Irvine, CA – (June 5, 2012) – Chris White, vice president of Global Sales for Emerging Technologies and Linksys Home Networking at Cisco Systems, will serve as keynote speaker for The Paul Merage School of Business 2012 Commencement ceremony scheduled to take place June 17, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the Bren Events Center on the UC Irvine campus. White will present to a graduating class of approximately 12 PhD and more than 300 MBA students from the Merage School’s Full-Time, Fully Employed, and Executive MBA programs. Also graduating will be 116 undergraduate business administration majors, the first full class to graduate from The Paul Merage School of Business.

“This is an exciting time in the history of our business school,” said Andrew Policano, dean of The Paul Merage School of Business. “Not only are we honored to have Chris White as our commencement speaker – an experienced executive who exemplifies innovation, global leadership, sustainability and growth – we are celebrating a landmark year with the participation of our first full class of undergraduates to walk at commencement.”

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White will address the record-sized class of graduates with a speech on competitive leadership in the context of the global economy characterized by dynamic technology, emerging countries and world economic environmental impacts.

“It’s always an honor to be asked to speak at commencement, especially for a prestigious business school like The Paul Merage School of Business,” said White. “But, it’s particularly an honor to participate in a milestone event where we are celebrating the academic accomplishments of so many, at so many different levels.”

White is a member of the Merage School’s Dean’s Advisory Board. At Cisco, White is responsible for creating effective go-to-market models with a goal to aggressively grow each of Cisco’s Emerging Technologies businesses to $1 billion. The current portfolio of solutions includes Connected Energy/Smart Grid Networks, Digital Media Systems, Physical Security, Media Experience and Analytics and Linksys Home Networking. In this role he works with many diverse global technology players from Walmart, Best-Buy & Amazon to Wipro, IBM and Samsung. He works closely with the engineering teams to align the new technology and solutions they are producing to the business priorities of Cisco’s wide and diverse global customer base. He recruits specialist go to market teams to expand globally, drive market share again and contribute to Cisco’s success as a Fortune 50 company. In addition, White is a member of Cisco’s many corporate initiatives including various Cisco Corporate Social Responsibility projects focused on providing education, rural development and healthcare through use of networking technology.

Prior to his role within the Emerging Technologies Group, White worked in Bangalore, India, where he served as chief of staff for Wim Elfrink, executive VP and chief globalization officer and where he established the Cisco Globalization Center East, a critical research and development, data center and globalization hub and created solutions for the emerging markets focused on healthcare, security and education. He has also held various other roles at Cisco in the United States, including leading the Western Area to the largest fastest growing segment working with Microsoft, Amazon, Google, Apple, the California State and education system.

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Prior to Cisco, White held various executive roles in two successful start-ups, Network Managers (UK) Ltd, which was sold to Microsoft in 1992, and TGV Software Inc., which was sold to Cisco in 1995. Born and educated in England, he represented Great Britain in rowing in the World Championships in 1981 and 1982.

White is a dynamic, passionate leader that believes in diversity, globalization, risk taking and the power of a team to execute both business and personal goals in the ever changing world.

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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