859 Students to Graduate from Cypress College in 44th Commencement on Thursday

Cypress College will hold its 44th Commencement on Thursday, May 26, 2011, at 6 p.m., in the Gateway Plaza. The Class of 2011 is comprised of 859 students who will receive a total of 909 associate's degrees.

More than 300 students are expected to participate in the graduation ceremony, which the college will broadcast live beginning at about 5:45 p.m. via the campus website and Ustream.TV. Additional information about graduation is available on the “2011 Graduation Central” section of the college website at: http://www.cypresscollege.edu/news/2011-graduation.html.

More than 500 members of the Class of 2011 are graduating with honors, and 70 of those are receiving high honors — meaning they have earned a career grade-point average of 3.75 or higher. Among them is Kelly Chiffer, a Psychology major with a perfect 4.0 GPA and a member of the two-time conference champion women’s volleyball team.

“Her performance has been at one of the highest levels I have seen over the past few years in the course,” said Randy Martinez, Chair of the Psychology Department. “As a student, she displays the characteristics of a dedicated learner. Ms. Chiffer is inquisitive, objective and has a passion for acquiring knowledge.”

During the ceremony, the college will recognize John Moore as the 2011 Outstanding Alumnus. Moore
is a faculty member and the head basketball coach at Westmont College, where he also played following his time at Cypress College. He is described by legendary Cypress College basketball coach Don Johnson as “THE most inspirational athlete in Cypress College Basketball history.”

The commencement address will be presented by Timothy Naftali, the director of the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, a part of the National Archives and Records Administration. Before joining the National Archives, Naftali taught history at a number of universities, including the University of Virginia. Dr. Naftali also was a consultant on the history of U.S. counterterrorism policy to the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (popularly known as the “9/11 Commission”).

Two strong supporters of the college — Frank Garcia and Irv Pickler — will be recognized for their accomplishments with honorary degrees.

About Cypress College:

Cypress College has motivated the minds of students since 1966. For nearly a half-million people — including actors, athletes, doctors, executives, mechanics, nurses and teachers — Cypress College has been a springboard to their dreams. For some, Cypress College is the ticket into their university of choice and for others it provides essential training for a rewarding career. Just one Cypress College class is often all it takes to provide cutting-edge skills that lead to a promotion or a new job.

Cypress College's 16,000 students and the highly qualified teaching faculty are proud of the many excellent academic and vocational programs. Cypress College offers 58 university-transfer majors, 145 career-certificate programs, and degrees in 55 areas of study. The college’s traditional semesters begin in January and August, while short-term courses start throughout the year. A Cypress College education costs just $36 per unit — just $108 for a typical, full-credit class — California’s lowest tuition. Financial aid and scholarships also are available to qualifying students.

Cypress College is one of three campuses in the North Orange County Community College District and a member of the 110-campus California Community College System. The college primarily serves the cities of Anaheim, Buena Park, Cypress, Garden Grove, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Seal Beach and Stanton.
Michael J. Kasler is the president.

Located at 9200 Valley View Street in Cypress, the college is easily accessible from several Southern California freeways, including the 5, 91, 605, 22 and 405. The campus is just a stone’s-throw from Downtown Disney and Knott’s Berry Farm.

More information about Cypress College is available by calling (714) 484-7000 or by visiting the campus Web site at http://www.CypressCollege.edu.