FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Chancellor’s Office Contact: Paige Marlatt Dorr
Office: 916.327.5356
Cell: 916.601.8005
Office E-mail: pdorr@cccco.edu
BlackBerry: PMarlatt@comcast.net

January 11, 2010
Foundation Contact: Jill Scofield
Office: 916.498.6702
Cell: 916.712.0339
E-mail: jscofield@foundationccc.org

Southern California Edison announces $1 million contribution to California Community Colleges

Gift will support scholarships for green education at 10 colleges in Southern California

Sacramento, Calif. – Southern California Edison (SCE) today announced a $1 million gift to the California Community Colleges that will launch the “Green Jobs Education Initiative,” providing scholarship support for community college students seeking training or certification in green jobs or fields.

"California Community Colleges are taking the lead in educating tomorrow's green workforce," said California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott. "I commend Southern California Edison for taking a proactive role in providing support to community colleges and their students at a time when public funding and resources are scarce. This million dollar donation will help underwrite opportunities for students to be trained to work in high demand and high paying green jobs. Providing financial aid to students in need means our workforce will reflect the diversity of our state. I encourage other companies to follow the lead of SCE."

The scholarships will support students with financial need who are enrolled in green job workforce preparation, training programs or studying six key sectors of the green economy for which workforce demand continues to grow. Those sectors include solar panel installation, water and wastewater management, transportation and alternative fuels, biofuels production and farming, environmental compliance or sustainability planning.

“The Green Jobs Education Initiative holds the triple crown in our philanthropic portfolio. It will support education programs for college students, encourage environmental sustainability efforts and prepare skilled employees for the growing green jobs workforce,” said John R. Fielder, president of Southern California Edison. “It also has the additional economic benefit of supporting students and colleges facing crippling financial pressures.”

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The gift, announced at today’s California Community Colleges Board of Governors meeting, will play a role in enhancing momentum in an unprecedented campaign to raise $50 million as a system for the California Community Colleges Scholarship Endowment, a statewide fund established in 2008 with an historic $50 million commitment from The Bernard Osher Foundation.

“Southern California Edison is providing a shining example of how corporate philanthropy can make a tremendous impact on our students,” said Dr. Paul Lanning, President and CEO of the Foundation for California Community Colleges, which manages the statewide Endowment and related fundraising campaign. “Through its actions today, coupled with an earlier gift of $200,000 to community colleges in Southern California, SCE is sending a powerful message to other organizations that investing in California’s Community College students is a necessary and effective way to ensure the competitiveness of our future workforce. But more significantly, the gift it made today will continue to benefit community college students with much-needed financial support forever.”

SCE's gift will support green job scholarships at 10 individual colleges, including:
- Cerritos College, Norwalk
- Cerro Coso Community College, Ridgecrest
- El Camino College, Torrance
- Golden West College, Huntington Beach
- Long Beach City College, Long Beach
- Los Angeles Southwest College, Los Angeles
- Los Angeles Trade-Technical College, Los Angeles
- Rio Hondo College, Whittier
- San Bernardino Valley College, San Bernardino
- Ventura College, Ventura

SCE’s contribution will also allow the benefiting colleges to receive an additional $50,000 in direct match dollars from The Osher Foundation as part of the statewide fundraising campaign currently underway for the California Community Colleges Scholarship Endowment. The Endowment combines the historic $50 million commitment—including an upfront gift of $25 million—from the Osher Foundation with a three-year match fundraising campaign that involves all 110 California Community Colleges. Through this campaign, the Endowment will ultimately grow to $100 million and provide scholarships for thousands of California students annually, in perpetuity.

For more information of the Green Jobs Education Initiative, visit www.sce.com/greenjobs.com. To learn more about the California Community Colleges Scholarship Endowment or other California Community College programs, visit www.SupporttheEndowment.org or www.cccco.edu.

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About Southern California Edison

An Edison International (NYSE:EIX) company, Southern California Edison is one of the nation’s largest electric utilities, serving a population of more than 14 million via 4.9 million customer accounts in a 50,000-square-mile service area within Central, Coastal and Southern California. Headquartered in Rosemead, Calif., Edison International (NYSE:EIX), through its subsidiaries, is a generator and distributor of electric power and an investor in infrastructure and energy assets, including renewable energy.

About California Community Colleges

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation comprised of 72 districts and 110 colleges serving 2.9 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training and basic skills education and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor’s Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

About the Foundation for California Community Colleges

The Foundation for California Community Colleges is the official nonprofit foundation to the California Community Colleges’ Board of Governors and Chancellor’s Office. The Foundation’s mission is to benefit, support, and enhance the missions of the California Community College system, the largest higher education system in the nation. Incorporated in 1998, the Foundation works with Community Colleges and partner organizations to manage donations, grants, programs, and services that drive excellence in education while saving millions of dollars for colleges each year. Among these services is the management of the California Community Colleges Scholarship Endowment, a permanent scholarship fund that provides financial support to thousands of students every year. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit corporation and receives no direct state or public support. For more information, visit www.foundationccc.org.