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News Release

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Carol and Jim Collins Pledge \$5.25 Million to Jump-Start Donations for Expansion of The Collins College at Cal Poly Pomona

POMONA, Calif. — Carol and Jim Collins, the namesakes and primary benefactors of The Collins College of Hospitality Management, have once again shown tremendous generosity to Cal Poly Pomona. They have pledged to match dollar-for-dollar \$5 million in donations for a \$10 million academic building.

“Carol and Jim have been wonderful friends of the university. They are visionary people who have been pivotal in making The Collins College a national leader in hospitality management education. Their latest gift will be transformational, creating new opportunities for the next generation of hospitality professionals while empowering others to support The Collins College,” said Cal Poly Pomona President Michael Ortiz.

The building will employ green building design and lay the foundation for expanded programs at The Collins College, which has seen a 46% growth in enrollment in only three years. Future graduates are well positioned to fill the hospitality industry’s call for more skilled professionals. The Collins College is also developing the state’s first graduate program in hospitality management, reinforcing its forward-thinking reputation in the industry.

“Carol and I want to see this dollar-for-dollar challenge invigorate a broad base of alumni and industry support,” Jim Collins said. “The Collins College is a premier hospitality management program, and it needs our support to continue to grow and make an impact on students and the hospitality industry.”

For over 20 years, Carol and Jim Collins have donated substantially to Cal Poly Pomona. Their contributions have been used primarily to help build state-of-the-art facilities. These facilities have given the college the ability to flourish and become one of the nation’s leading hospitality management programs, according to Collins College Dean Andrew Hale Feinstein.

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“The Collins College is extremely grateful to Carol and Jim for their pledge at this important time,” Feinstein said. “Our enrollment has grown significantly over the last few years and we are in critical need of additional space. This new building will allow us to accommodate our increasing student population, develop a graduate program and will showcase our learn-by-doing philosophy.”

Reinforcing Cal Poly Pomona’s polytechnic approach, graduate students under the direction of architecture Professor Kip Dickson will participate in the design of the 20,000-square-foot building. Preliminary plans for the building include small modular classrooms, a large lecture hall and faculty offices. It will be designed with environmental sustainability as a primary objective, and the college hopes to pursue LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design – certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

The building’s landscaping will also embrace sustainable design by including usage of edible vegetation for use in the Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch.

Founded in 1973, The Collins College of Hospitality Management is the first and largest four-year hospitality management degree program in California and the only hospitality management college on the West Coast. More than 1,000 undergraduate students receive a superior education in the state-of-the-art Collins College facilities, where they learn to apply hospitality management theories and concepts to real-world settings. Part of this unique academic experience includes managing and operating the full-service Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch.

For more information contact Lisa McPheron, director of communications and external relations for The Collins College at (909) 869-3151.

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ABOUT CAL POLY POMONA — Striking a balance between urban excitement and rural charm, Cal Poly Pomona is nestled in 1,438 rolling acres in the heart of sunny Southern California. With 3,000 faculty and staff to serve 21,500 students, Cal Poly Pomona’s mission is to advance knowledge by linking theory and practice while preparing students for leadership and careers in a multicultural world. The university seeks to place learning at the center of every program, course, and activity on campus. Students can apply their knowledge through hands-on projects, collaborate with faculty members on research, and participate in valuable internships and service learning programs. Eight colleges (agriculture; business administration; education; engineering; environmental design; hospitality management; letters, arts and social sciences; and science) offer 56 undergraduate and 23 graduate degrees, as well as 8 credential programs.