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**VCCF Names Mark Cooper Director of Fund Development: Joins Colleagues as VCCF expands efforts to build charitable capital for Ventura County**

**Camarillo, CALIF. - (October 5, 2007)** Mark A. Cooper, a longtime educator and development officer at California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, has been hired as Director of Fund Development for the Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF). He began work with the Foundation, which is based in Camarillo, on September 10.

As Director of Fund Development, Cooper will be responsible for implementing the board's goals in the current strategic plan to expand funds at the community foundation, both in response to donors wishing to invest philanthropic dollars across Ventura County, and to expanding charitable capital to address the community needs that help shape VCCF's grantmaking. "I'm absolutely thrilled to be here and excited about the opportunity that I have before me," Cooper said. "As a former resident of Ventura County I'm really happy to be back here—and with such a fine organization."

"We are delighted that Mark has joined VCCF in this important role", welcomed Hugh Ralston, president and CEO of the Foundation. "Building long term relationships has been a key to fulfilling the mission of the Foundation and we look forward to Mark returning to Ventura County and help VCCF in this critical area of implementing the board's commitment to expanding VCCF's capacity to make a difference in Ventura County through its grantmaking.

Cooper will be joining two recently hired colleagues, Ilana Ormond, Director of Planned Giving and Catherine Lee, Director of Donor Relations, as VCCF moves to implement the strategies outlined in its strategic plans to expand charitable capital entrusted to the Community Foundation to benefit Ventura County.

Cooper, currently a Professor Emeritus in the Cal Poly College of Engineering, brings a breadth of development and other experience to the job. In his most recent tenure as a teacher and

researcher, Cooper raised more than \$2 million in support for new equipment and laboratory and facility renovation, as well as funding for instructional programs at the College. He has worked at the school since 1978.

During that 29-year period Cooper spent four years—from 1998 to 2002—as Director of Corporate Relations for the College of Engineering. In concert with faculty, deans, and development and other staff, he raised more than one-third of the College's \$60 million campaign goal following announcement of the public phase of the university's \$250 million Centennial Campaign.

While serving Cal Poly, Cooper also has served his country—as a Navy Captain with the U.S. Naval Sea Systems Command in San Francisco, an all-officer reserve engineering duty unit. In that capacity, from 1995-97, he orchestrated an increase in the level of funded projects from \$500,000 to more than \$2.3 million in two years

Prior to that, in a similar capacity in San Diego, he led an increase in the level of funded project support from zero to more than \$2 million over two years. In his career in the Navy, Cooper also served as a reserve executive and commanding officer in Ventura County at Naval Base Ventura County working on the Navy's AEGIS system. He also served on active duty with the famed Seabees earlier in his naval duty.

The former Atascadero resident also has served as Officer-In-Charge, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Naval Reserve Engineering Duty, for the Best Manufacturing Practices survey team; as a management consultant, with primary services including system development, organizational design, training material creation, testing and publication for foundation and governmental proposal development and presentation, as well as benchmarking analysis at Lockheed Martin and ComputerVision Corporations; and as Director of the Computer-Aided Productivity Center at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. In that position he raised more than \$10.2 million in new private and state support for computer-aided design education.

The Ventura County Community Foundation is a family of charitable funds whose combined assets now exceed \$100 million, with 2006 grants and pledges of \$8.5 million. The Foundation's mission is to promote and enable philanthropy to improve our community and to build long-term capital to benefit Ventura County. The Foundation has recently been confirmed in compliance with national standards by the Council on Foundations, a reflection of the highest peer review across the nation's 700 community foundations. For more information, visit [www.vccf.org](http://www.vccf.org) or contact VCCF at 805-988-0196.

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