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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE UNIVERSITY OF PACIFIC PRESIDENT ELECTED TO GREAT VALLEY CENTER BOARD

Modesto, CA (September 1, 2010) – The University of Pacific President Pamela A. Eibeck has been elected to the board of the Great Valley Center, a regional planning and action nonprofit serving the Central Valley.

The Great Valley Center, which is in partnership with UC Merced, works with community organizations and local governments to improve the quality of life for residents of the 19 counties in the region. Its 12-member board is composed of business, government and education leaders.

Kathy McKim, Vice President of AT&T External Affairs for the Central Valley, and chair of the Great Valley Center board, announced the election. “President Eibeck's strong leadership in the San Joaquin Valley and her commitment to the community will be a great addition to the GVC board.”

Now in her second year as president at Pacific, Eibeck made community engagement a priority. She launched a series of public forums called “Beyond Our Gates,” to explore ways to better connect the University with its community. Eibeck leads a University of nine schools and colleges enrolling 6,500 students on three campuses in Stockton, Sacramento and San Francisco. She is the former dean of engineering at Texas Tech University and held academic posts at Northern Arizona University and UC Berkeley. Eibeck holds bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in engineering from Stanford, and is the first woman president at the university.

“I admire the Great Valley Center for the leading role it has played in shaping thought, policy and planning for major issues in the Central Valley,” said Eibeck. “University of the Pacific is eager to be a part of that discussion, and it is an honor for me to become involved in this important work as we prepare our communities to thrive in the 21st century.”

In addition to conferences and briefings on regional growth issues, the Great Valley Center is a resource for information about the Valley, including a daily e-letter on renewable energy and a weekly public television program seen throughout the region. The Modesto-based center, in cooperation with Heyday Books, recently published a book on Valley trends over the next decade, titled *2020: Visions for the Central Valley*. University of the Pacific has joined with the Great Valley Center and other organizations in starting a new network for leaders in the northern San Joaquin Valley called the American Leadership Forum Great Valley Chapter.

About the Great Valley Center: Founded in 1997, the Great Valley Center is a non-profit organization that works in partnership with the University of California, Merced to support organizations and activities working to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of California’s Great Central Valley.

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