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**ASPEN INSTITUTE RECOGNIZES
CHAFFEY COLLEGE IN RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CALIFORNIA
AS ONE OF TOP TEN FINALISTS IN NATIONAL PRIZE COMPETITION**

Today, Chaffey College was recognized in an award ceremony in Washington, DC, as one of the top ten community colleges nationally in the bi-annual Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. During the ceremony at the Newseum, Chaffey was recognized for:

- A high first-to-second-year retention rate of 73% that's well above the national average of 52%
- Awarding substantially more degrees per 100 students each year, with a 75% increase over five years

As noted in the Aspen Institute's extensive review, Chaffey is a national leader when it comes to teaching and providing academic supports for students that lead to them completing their courses. It serves 23,305 students who are diverse and economically challenged: 81% are students of color and more than 60% are Hispanic with the vast majority attending Chaffey part-time. Rather than focus on student deficits, or products such as quizzes, papers, and exams, Chaffey's culture and practices are oriented around a "growth mindset" – the belief that every student can build on strengths to get smarter by working hard. Chaffey's "Hope Engage Succeed" initiative provides concrete strategies that effectively reverse students' low expectations, low self-worth, and lack of confidence. In fact, few colleges in the nation have done as much to infuse this type of learning into campus policies and practices with a focus on improving students' capacity to learn.

We thank Chaffey College for participating in this year's Aspen Prize process, and for helping define excellence for community colleges nationwide.

For more information on Chaffey College, and the national press release, go to:

<http://as.pn/1kr>.

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The Aspen Prize is funded by the Joyce Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, the Siemens Foundation, and Pearson.

The Aspen College Excellence Program aims to advance higher education practices, policies, and leadership that significantly improve student outcomes. Through the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the Siemens Technical Scholars Program, and other initiatives, the College Excellence Program works to improve colleges' understanding and capacity to teach and graduate students, especially the growing population of low-income and

minority students on American campuses. For more information, visit <http://highered.aspeninstitute.org/>.

The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues. The Institute is based in Washington, DC; Aspen, Colorado; and on the Wye River on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It also has offices in New York City and an international network of partners. For more information, visit www.aspeninstitute.org.