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Wendell Cutting Center dedication Dec. 12 *Well-known East County figure to be honored for support of college district and countless others*

EL CAJON – As a testament to his compassion, generosity and service to many, the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District will posthumously honor philanthropist, humanitarian and former governing board member Wendell Cutting with a Dec. 12 dedication of a Cuyamaca College building soon to bear his name.

The public is welcome to attend the 10 a.m. event honoring Cutting, a governing board trustee from 2002 until his death in 2006. The indoor ceremony in the science and technology center will feature the unveiling of a bronze plaque bearing a likeness of Cutting with his always-present smile, and speakers including Rep. Duncan Hunter, for whom Cutting served as district chief of staff.

An outdoor reception following the dedication will provide an opportunity for attendees, including Cutting's relatives from San Jacinto, to see the family name gracing the building. The naming of the facility, which houses computer labs for the life and physical sciences programs, as well as computer information science, recognizes not only the depth of his caring for students, but also, the value he placed on learning. A middle-school teacher and administrator during the '70s, Cutting was a strong proponent of advancing science and technology education at Cuyamaca College.

Cutting, whose staunch support of the college district long preceded his presence on the governing board, was always quick to voice his long-held belief that the future of East County will be determined by the quality of education offered in its communities.

"Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District is East County's most valuable asset," he wrote in a letter to the district, when he first expressed his interest in having a role in its governance.

Cutting's dedication to the colleges went hand-in-hand with his commitment to the district, and the special spot that students held in his heart was readily apparent, said Chancellor Omero Suarez.

In September, the governing board approved the chancellor's recommendation to support a Cuyamaca College request for naming the building after Cutting. A much-loved pillar of East County,

Cutting's generosity touched everyone, from students he quietly helped with money for books to the victims of the ravages of war and nature in the furthest corners of the earth. As a volunteer for the East County-based non-profit Rescue Task Force, Cutting traveled broadly, rendering aid to the stricken in places like Kosovo, Pakistan, Afghanistan, El Salvador and the jungles of the Mosquito Coast in Honduras.

"Wendell was always quick to answer a call for assistance," Suarez said. "It is quite fitting that his is the first name ever to be attached to a building in this district. The Cuyamaca College Wendell Cutting Center will be a lasting reminder of Wendell's efforts and his commitment to furthering learning and good will, particularly in the area of science and technology."

The building opened in 2007 as one of several facilities made possible by the passage of a facilities bond measure, Proposition R, in 2002.

Cuyamaca College is located at 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway in Rancho San Diego. Free parking will be available for the event. For more information, call (619) 660-4000 or go to www.cuyamaca.edu.

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