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Sandy Thomas, Chamber of Commerce Chairman, is Americana Citizen of the Year from Garden Grove

Sandy Thomas is the Citizen of the Year from the City of Garden Grove for the Cypress College Foundation's 37th Annual Americana Awards. The Americana Awards, sponsored by Union Bank, N.A., will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2012 in the Disneyland Hotel's Grand Ballroom.

Thomas is always on the go. Whether it's tending to her duties as branch manager of Farmers & Merchants Bank, providing leadership for the Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce as chairman of the board (she's in her third term), or, as she puts it, "spoiling my grandkids," you can count on Thomas to bring a full measure of enthusiasm to the effort.

Prior to assuming its presidency, she held a number of other leadership positions with the chamber as a whole, and, several within its Women's Division. Thomas was the first female to serve in a management position at Farmers & Merchants Bank.

She also serves on the Board of Directors for Acacia Adult Day Services and on the Advisory Board for the Garden Grove Assistance League. She has been recognized several times for her many contributions to the community, receiving the "Women Making a Difference" Award from State Senator Lou Correa in 2010, and the Silver Spoon award from Garden Grove Chamber Women's Division in 2006.

Tickets for the Americana Awards are available from the Cypress College Foundation for \$225 per person with various sponsorship levels also available. Information is available by calling (714) 484-7126 or

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at <http://www.CypressCollege.edu> or <http://www.Facebook.com/AmericanaAwards>. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with no-host cocktails and a silent auction. Dinner is served at 7 p.m.

Bruno Serato has been selected as the 2012 Americana Man of the Year. Serato is a noted philanthropist, who is currently one of 10 finalists for the CNN Hero award, an international honor organized by the Cable News Network. He was the Americana Awards Citizen of the Year from Anaheim eight years ago.

In addition to the Man of the Year, the America Awards salute citizens of the year from the eight cities in the college' primary service area. In addition to Thomas, Citizens of the Year are: Paul and Carol Ann Bostwick (Anaheim); Art Brown (Buena Park); Jeanne St. Clair (Cypress); George and Barbara Mast (La Palma); James and Shirley Bailey (Los Alamitos/Rossmoor); Pastor Donald Shoemaker (Seal Beach); and Andreas Psaras (Stanton).

In July, 2010, Union Bank, N.A., strengthened its partnership with Cypress College, agreeing to serve as the title sponsor of the 2011, 2012 and 2013 Americana Awards. At the 2011 awards, Union Bank extended it's sponsorship through 2015. Union Bank has a long-standing leadership role at the college with representation on the Cypress College Foundation Board of Directors. Union Bank's five-year commitment to Cypress College totals \$125,000.

For more information about the Americana Awards, please call the Cypress College Foundation office at (714) 484-7126 or visit: <http://www.cypresscollege.edu/about/Foundation/>.

About Cypress College:

Cypress College has motivated the minds of students since 1966. For nearly a half-million people — including actors, athletes, doctors, executives, mechanics, nurses and teachers — Cypress College has been a springboard to their dreams. For some, Cypress College is the ticket into their university of choice and for others it provides essential training for a rewarding career. Just one Cypress College class is often all it takes to provide cutting-edge skills that lead to a promotion or a new job.

Cypress College's 16,500 students and the highly qualified teaching faculty are proud of the many

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excellent academic and vocational programs. Cypress College offers 58 university-transfer majors, 145 career-certificate programs, and degrees in 55 areas of study. The college's traditional semesters begin in January and August, while short-term courses start throughout the year. A Cypress College education costs just \$36 per unit — \$108 for a typical, full-credit class — California's lowest tuition. Financial aid and scholarships also are available to qualifying students.

Cypress College is one of three campuses in the North Orange County Community College District and a member of the 110-campus California Community College System. The college primarily serves the cities of Anaheim, Buena Park, Cypress, Garden Grove, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Seal Beach and Stanton. Michael J. Kasler is the president.

Located at 9200 Valley View Street in Cypress, the college is easily accessible from several Southern California freeways, including the 5, 91, 605, 22 and 405. The campus is just a stone's-throw from Downtown Disney and Knott's Berry Farm.

More information about Cypress College is available by calling (714) 484-7000 or by visiting the campus Web site at <http://www.CypressCollege.edu>.

About UnionBanCal Corporation & Union Bank, N.A.

Headquartered in San Francisco, UnionBanCal Corporation is a financial holding company with assets of \$84 billion at June 30, 2010. Its primary subsidiary, Union Bank, N.A., is a full-service commercial bank providing an array of financial services to individuals, small businesses, middle-market companies, and major corporations. The bank operated 396 banking offices in California, Oregon, Washington and Texas as well as two international offices, on June 30, 2010. UnionBanCal Corporation is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd., which is a subsidiary of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. Union Bank is a proud member of the Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG, NYSE:MTU), one of the world's largest financial organizations. Visit www.unionbank.com for more information.