Dr. Michael J. Kasler — who learned English as a second language, stocked grocery-store shelves in one of his first jobs, and later became Cypress College president — has spent his final day on campus prior to retirement.

An unwavering advocate of students, Dr. Kasler was focused on their success throughout his 38 years in education. He enters retirement after 20 years at Cypress College.

Dr. Kasler assumed the presidency at Cypress College on July 1, 2007. In that role has been responsible for all aspects of the college’s instructional programs and services, as well as ensuring that the college is meeting the needs of the communities it serves.

Dr. Kasler served the K-12 educational system for 18 years as a teacher, principal at Fountain Valley High School, and later as an assistant superintendent. He also taught courses at several southern California colleges from 1973 to 1992 as an adjunct faculty member.

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In 1992, he came to Cypress College as Dean of Business and Computer Information Systems. In 1994 he was chosen to be the Interim Vice President of Instruction, then became Dean of Instructional Services and served from 1995 to 1999. In 1999, he was selected as the Executive Vice President for Educational Programs and Student Services and held that position until becoming President.

Dr. Kasler’s academic credentials include an Ed.D. in Institutional Management from Pepperdine University, two masters of science degrees, one in School Administration from Pepperdine University and the other in Business Administration, Marketing/Management from California State University, Long Beach, and a bachelor of arts in Economics from California State University, Long Beach.

His community involvement includes service on the Board of the Anaheim YMCA and Rotary Club of Cypress. He has been an active member of the Cypress Chamber of Commerce and serves on the boards of the Cypress College Foundation and Cypress College Patrons of the Arts. He is also an active participant on the California Community Colleges CEO Board.

Dr. Kasler has been a member of several accrediting teams for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges as well as serving in a variety of professional organizations such as the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA) and the state Executive Board for Chief Instructional Officers. He presented professional development workshops for the Association of California School Administrators/California School Leadership Academy and California State University Fullerton and has spoken on enrollment management at the California Community Colleges Board of Governors and State Chancellor’s Conference.

Dr. Kasler and his wife, Jana, have lived in Huntington Beach for more than 35 years. They have two daughters and five grandchildren.

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 (MORE)
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 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 $46 per unit — $138 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.

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.