



COPPER MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**COPPER MOUNTAIN COLLEGE FOUNDATION'S 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FALL DINNER  
RAISES \$12,000**

JOSHUA TREE, Ca –The Copper Mountain College Foundation raised almost \$12,000 at its annual Fall Dinner “25 Years: Living the Dream,” held on Saturday, October 24, 2009, at the Helen Gray Education Center. Master of Ceremonies Huell Howser delighted attendees with anecdotes about each guest speaker in a way that reminded the crowd of his many years of insightful interviewing as the host of PBS’ *California’s Gold*.

Also featured at the fundraising event was the auction of a quilt, handcrafted by Carol Babcock, the daughter of CMC student, Genevieve Salisbury. The quilt was created for the college’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a tribute to the original quilt that began the fundraising efforts for the CMC campus, and that inspired the founding of The Friends of Copper Mountain College (later the Copper Mountain College Foundation). CMC’s Superintendent/President, Dr. Roger Wagner, surprised the crowd with his spirited auctioneering skills and was well rewarded when the final gavel came down. The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Quilt’s winning bid of \$1,200 was made by Sam and Karen Provost, college supporters and the owners of the restaurant “Bistro 29” in Twentynine Palms. The CMC Foundation plans to make the quilt auction an annual event at their Fall Dinner, and hopes that one of the many local quilters will volunteer to craft next year’s 2010 quilt.

Dr. Jack Scott, Chancellor of the California Community Colleges and the featured guest speaker, accepted the CMC Foundation’s “Visionary Award” on behalf of the Bernard Osher Foundation which made history with its \$70 million dollar gift to the California Community Colleges. Also recognized for receipt of the “Living the Dream” award was CMC student Genevieve Salisbury, whose relationship with both the College and the Foundation spans many years.

Cheryl Munsey, the Interim Vice-President of Academic Affairs, spoke about the history of the college, Linda Deneher, a CMC alum, shared the inspiration CMC gave her to pursue her Master’s Degree, and Philip Curra, a current student and President of CMC’s student government, talked of the many ways in which student activities will benefit the local community.

Dr. Scott rounded out the evening with appreciation for the community’s support of CMC despite the difficulties the state’s budget crisis has had on the operation of all community colleges. “There’s power in education, and that’s why I applaud this community,” said Chancellor Scott. “It’s a small college, but there are those who love it, and that’s where things begin.”

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2009 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the initial buildings of the CMC campus that were funded through mostly private donations when state funding wasn't available. The CMC Foundation (previously The Friends of Copper Mountain College) began its fundraising efforts in 1981 with the sale of a quilt, and in 1984, shortly after the opening of the college campus, it was recognized with a *Volunteer Action Award* at a White House Ceremony with President Reagan.

In 2010, CMC will look toward its future as it opens the 40,000 sq. ft. Bell Center, a multi-use gymnasium that will support the college's fitness and wellness programs, as well as its theater, music and adult education programs. The Foundation is currently fundraising to equip the Bell Center and its sports fields. Both the College and Foundation are looking to the community to invest in the educational and cultural benefits of the center.

For more information on how you can become involved with the CMC Foundation and the Bell Center, please contact the CMC Foundation at 760.366.3791 ext. 4200 or visit us at [www.theCMCF.org](http://www.theCMCF.org). For general information regarding Copper Mountain College visit us at [www.cmccd.edu](http://www.cmccd.edu) or call 760.366.3791.

**Photo Credits, Rhonda Duval:**

CMCF Dinner 1 – *Dr. Jack Scott, Chancellor of the California Community Colleges.*

CMCF Dinner 2 - *(from left) Dr. Roger Wagner (Superintendent/President, CMC), Jane Smith (President, CMC Foundation), Dr. Jack Scott (Chancellor of the California Community Colleges), Huell Howser (Master of Ceremonies and host of PBS' California's Gold).*

CMCF Dinner 3 - *(from left) Genevieve Salisbury and Karen Provost.*

CMCF Dinner 4 - *Dr. Roger Wagner shows his auctioneering skills.*

CMCF Dinner 5 - *(from left) Karen Provost, Owen Gillick and Sam Provost.*

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CMCF Dinner 6 – *(from left) Dr. Jack Scott, Huell Howser, Mrs. Lacreata Scott.*