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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reviving California Community Summit at San José State University
Public square gathering focuses on state reform

March 25, 2010 Santa Clara, Calif. – Frustrated with the state of California? Confused about how to make real reform happen? Join regional leaders, community members, students, journalists and elected officials at San José State University on Saturday, May 1, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a Community Summit on Reviving California.

“While the Constitutional Convention is not happening this year, there are actions we can take, as a community, to ensure that Silicon Valley’s voice is heard in Sacramento,” said **Rick Callender**, Co-Chair of Reviving California, American Leadership Forum – Silicon Valley Senior Fellow and former president of the San Jose / Silicon Valley NAACP. “Everyone is frustrated by the legislature’s inability to pass a balanced budget. As Californians, we have the power to create a better state.”

The Reviving California Community Summit, co-sponsored by San José State University and the Bill Lane Center for the American West at Stanford University, will bring together diverse participants in the public square at El Paseo de Cesar E. Chavez / 7th Street Plaza for a series of conversations that are part of a statewide dialogue on reform that will inform organizations like California Forward on what is important to Silicon Valley.

Highlights include presentations, dialogue groups and information stations on initiatives that will be on both the June and November 2010 ballots, as well as ongoing efforts to make California government more effective. Topics include: governance structure and performance; the initiative process; tax structure; individual responsibility and social capital; breaking the silos and the role of media. The goal is to educate, empower and engage participants.

“Comprehensive reform is complex, and makes for difficult and frustrating conversations, which is precisely the reason we can’t shy away from the topic,” said **Anu Natarajan**, Program Director for Reviving California. “Successful reform requires a sustained and long-term commitment.”

Reviving California is a project of the Common Good Collaborative, powered by American Leadership Forum – Silicon Valley, in partnership with the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and in collaboration with Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network.

For the past 18 months, Reviving California has sponsored a series of conversations with thought leaders on various aspects of budget and governance reform, including a Town Hall Meeting in September of 2009 at San José City Hall and ongoing multi-sector group dialogues on related issues through its Silicon Valley Collaborative for Reform. The Collaborative is a "network of networks" with leaders of regional organizations that is leveraging existing frameworks for community outreach.

The Reviving California Community Summit is free and open to the public. For information and registration, go to www.alfsv.org, call 408-554-2000 or email anu@alfsv.org.

About American Leadership Forum - Silicon Valley

American Leadership Forum-Silicon Valley (ALF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to building a better Silicon Valley community by joining and strengthening leaders to serve the common good. ALF was founded in 1988 to create a regional network of diverse senior-level leaders across private, public and nonprofit sectors. Graduates of the organization's one-year Fellows program, now numbering more than 420, have created a network that brings together a broad cross-section of leaders committed to building a stronger community, using collaborative leadership skills to identify and deal with complex regional issues, and creating opportunities to work together in ways that make a significant difference to Silicon Valley. For more information, visit www.alfsv.org.

About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation advances journalism in the digital age and invests in the vitality of communities where the Knight brothers owned newspapers. Since 1950, the foundation has granted more than \$400 million to advance quality journalism and freedom of expression. Knight Foundation focuses on projects that promote informed, engaged communities and lead to transformational change. For more, visit www.knightfoundation.org.

About Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network

Established in 1993, Joint Venture provides analysis and action on issues affecting the Silicon Valley economy and quality of life. The organization brings together established and emerging leaders—from business, government, academia, labor, and the broader community—to spotlight issues, launch projects, and work toward innovative solutions. For more information, visit www.jointventure.org.

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