Each fall for the past 20 years, Dr. Jerry C. Lee has gathered the National University System Community for the Annual Assembly Luncheon. What started as an intimate gathering of loyal National University employees behind an old church in Mission Valley has blossomed into a heartfelt and inspirational presentation by Dr. Lee to more than 800 trustees, faculty, administrators, and staff from the collective affiliates of the National University System.

With equal parts conviction, showmanship, and reverence, Dr. Lee used this year’s luncheon as a platform to simultaneously celebrate the accomplishments of the University System Community and to encourage it to remain committed to the mission which has been at the center of National University’s success over the past 40 years; providing a quality education and world-class service to the students who grace the System’s classrooms.

“This day is particularly special because with this event, we conclude our commemoration of National University’s 40th anniversary,” said Dr. Lee. “This achievement for our flagship institution is momentous for the entire National University System Community. Indeed, the younger organizations that comprise the System’s smaller affiliates are strengthened through association with our more established, financially mature University.”

“In a speech at Vanderbilt University, President John F. Kennedy stated, ‘We live in an age of movement and change, both evolutionary and revolutionary, both good and evil – and in such an age a university has a special obligation to hold fast to the best of the past and move fast to the best of the future,'” continued Chancellor Lee.

“I believe the foundation we have laid provides National University and the National University System with a singular opportunity to forge such a path in 21st century higher education.

“We understand as well as anyone the challenges of online education, and we strive to do this better than any other institution. There have been many times through the years that I have asked you to be mindful of the values we share and the sacred trust placed in us by our students. I believe this is the time the National University System can emerge as the bellwether for quality and, just as important, integrity in online education. We can prove, as we do each day, that distance does not conceive a disconnect with our students.”

In addition to celebrating National achievements over the past 40 years, Dr. Lee praised the loyalty of the System’s employees, citing some truly impressive statistics. Amongst the statistics Dr. Lee cited was the fact National University System employs more than 900 full-time faculty and staff, and of those faculty and staff, 11 people have been employed by National for more than 30 years. Additionally, 29 employees have been with National for more than 25 years. Fifty-seven have been with the University more than 20 years, and 83 for more than 15 years. In all, 216 National University employees have worked for the National University System Community at the Annual Assembly Luncheon.

This year, the theme established by Dr. Lee is Performance. Dr. Lee listed several challenges facing both National University and other private, nonprofit universities, including: the changing nature of Federal Government oversight of higher education; the need for education versus career training in today’s economy; the cost and affordability of higher education; the growth of for-profit institutions; reduced state funding for public universities; the growing prominence of online learning, inadequate preparation of students entering college; and continued competition from traditional-model institutions.

To illustrate the changing landscape of not only higher education but also global industry, Chancellor Lee listed several prominent brands which are predicted by Forbes magazine to not exist in 2012, including: Sony Pictures; A&W; SAAB; American Apparel; Sears; Sony Ericsson; Kellogg's Corn Pops; MySpace; Soap Opera Digest; and Nokia.

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CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2011

For the students, friends, and family of the National University Class of 2011, May 28 was a day for celebrating and rejoicing with loved ones.

More than 9,000 people, including nearly 1,500 graduates and more than 7,300 well-wishers, amassed at the San Diego Convention Center to celebrate National University’s 2011 Southern California Commencement Ceremony.

Ms. Patricia Potter, President of National University, had the honor of addressing the graduates on their special day.

“It is truly a privilege to stand here before you, to be one of the first people to recognize and congratulate you, the National University graduating class of 2011. This is your day, your story, your success, your degree,” said President Potter. “Each of you arrived at this day because of determination, drive, hard work, and an unshakable belief in your future.

“Congratulations to all of you. Know that your National University degree isn’t just a valuable symbol: it’s a symbol of value to your current and future employers, to your communities, to your families, and most important of all, to yourselves.”

The highlight of the ceremony was a speech from keynote speaker Mr. Evan Gaddis, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, and a retired Major General in the U.S. Army, who is also an alumnus of National University.

Mr. Gaddis addressed the assembled graduates, and their family and friends, sharing his experiences during his time at National University:

President Potter asked me if I was going to be nervous about speaking in front of so many people,” said Gaddis. “And I said, ‘I have to be honest. I’m going to be as nervous as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs. But you know what? I’m a graduate of National University and I can do this.

“It is an honor to be with you today. First let me start with recognizing the graduates of the Class of 2011. You are the winners. You had the vision, the desire, and the fortitude to better your life and the lives of the people who count on you. You demonstrated that you have what it takes to win. Statistics show that you will earn more money than the average person. You will move to higher levels of social and economic status, and Governor Brown is going to love you because you are going to pay a lot more taxes.”

SACRAMENTO COMMENCEMENT ATTRACTS 4,400 FRIENDS & FAMILY

A cheerful gathering of more than 4,400 friends and family amassed at the Sacramento Convention Center on Sunday, April 17, to celebrate the accomplishments of the 2011 graduates from National University’s campuses throughout Northern California, including Redding, Sacramento, Stockton, San Jose, Fresno, and Bakersfield.

President Patricia Potter saluted the assembled graduates and their families, saying, “Welcome to all of you, the members of National University’s 40th anniversary graduating class. What a pleasure and a privilege it is to welcome you to your future. Each of you chose National University for a different reason, but all of you have something in common. You all see your education as a way to acquire knowledge and skills that will help you advance in a career with real meaning and value. Congratulations to all of you.”

Mr. Alan Sitomer, a highly-decorated educator and author, as well as a National University alumnus, served as the ceremony’s commencement speaker.

Following his address to the graduates, Mr. Sitomer was honored with the Distinguished Leadership Award from National University by President Potter.

President Patricia Potter salutes the graduates of 2011.

Mr. Sitomer, who is nationally recognized for specializing in engaging reluctant readers, praised the graduates for the lifelong commitment to education:

“Mr. Sitomer, your commitment to education and engaging reluctant readers is an inspiration to us all. Your willingness to share your passion for education to help make the world a better place deserves our admiration and respect,” said President Potter.

In recognition of his extraordinary leadership and commitment to community service, Mr. Gaddis was presented with an honorary doctorate degree from National University by President Potter. During the ceremony, President Potter bestowed the Distinguished Teaching Award upon Dr. Lorna Zukas, a Professor in the Department of Social Sciences in the National University College of Letters and Sciences.

The combined National University Class of 2011 was comprised of 4,394 graduates statewide, with 72 percent receiving master’s degrees, 26 percent receiving bachelor’s degrees, two percent earning associate’s degrees, and another 2,621 earning credentials. Forty-three percent earned degrees from the School of Education, 23 percent from the School of Business and Management, 21 percent from the College of Letters and Sciences, six percent from the School of Health and Human Services, five percent from the School of Engineering and Technology, and two percent from the School of Media and Communication.

Approximately 375 students participated in the commencement in Sacramento, with 65 percent receiving master’s degrees and 35 percent earning bachelor’s degrees. The majority of the students (42 percent) were from the School of Education, with the College of Letters and Sciences close behind at 38 percent. Another 14 percent participated from the School of Business and Management, followed by five percent from the School of Health and Human Services, and one percent from the School of Engineering and Technology.

President Potter.”

Your comments today are indicative of the power to educate and inform, and reflect National University’s core values of community and access to lifelong learning. Ideally, your accomplishments will encourage others to apply their education and abilities toward achieving the same remarkable levels of success you have enjoyed in your personal and professional endeavors.”

For more information regarding National University, visit its website at www.nu.edu.
From its humble beginnings in 1971, National University has grown to an unprecedented model in higher education. By staying true to its core values of quality, access, relevance, accelerated pace, affordability, and community, National University has spent four decades as a leader in making lifelong learning opportunities accessible, challenging, and relevant to a diverse student population.

Over the past year, National University commemorated its 40th anniversary by taking great pride in acknowledging four decades of achievement. The celebration kicked off in January with the 40th Anniversary Luncheon at the Hilton at Torrey Pines. The highlight of the luncheon was a keynote address by Dr. Donald Kennedy, President Emeritus of Stanford University, who first visited National University more than a decade ago. Dr. Kennedy has long been a supporter of National University and its leadership in providing access to higher education to non-traditional learners.

In an effort to offer unparalleled access to educational opportunities to the men and women of the United States Armed Forces, National University has expanded its services to veterans through a new Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success.

The Center, which is located at National’s Spectrum Business Park Campus in San Diego, a national hub for military personnel, is the result of a $621,099, three-year grant that was awarded to the National University Department of Student Services by the U.S. Department of Education’s Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE).

The Center is a centralized point for the coordination of services that focus on four key areas: 1) easing veterans’ transition to campus life, 2) increasing retention, 3) improving achievement of educational and career goals, and 4) providing a higher quality of life through the coupling of pre-existing services and support with newly-created programming specifically developed to meet the needs of veteran students.

As part of this project, National University has established the Veteran Student Support Team to facilitate the development and implementation of the Center and its services. The Center serves as a one-stop referral center to provide guidance and assistance in directing veterans to the additional services they need. Funding from the grant also will facilitate a military Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Program that will assist with retention and academic achievement. As a result of the Center, National University anticipates an increase in graduation rates for veterans, higher job placement, lower unemployment, and higher retention rates.

National University enjoys a distinguished reputation for its commitment to military education. The University is a past winner of the prestigious Ray Ehrensberger Award for Institutional Excellence in Military Education. Additionally, the Associate Regional Dean of Military Bases and Veterans Affairs at National University, Doug Barr, is a past recipient of the William Kennedy Award by the Council of Colleges and Universities. For more information about National University’s military-friendly programs, visit http://www.nu.edu/OurUniversity/TheUniversity/Accreditation.html

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Throughout its history, National University has been dedicated to academic rigor and quality. That institution-wide commitment was rewarded earlier this year when the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) reaffirmed National’s accreditation through 2021.

“Our mission, making lifelong learning opportunities accessible, challenging, and relevant to a diverse student population, is as critical today as it was when National University was founded 40 years ago,” said Dr. Jerry C. Lee, Chancellor of the National University System. “WASC’s reaffirmation of National University’s accreditation is a testament to the hard work and loyalty of every member of the National University System.”

“The reaffirmation of National University’s accreditation by WASC is a verification of Chancellor Lee’s relentless focus on fostering an atmosphere where student success is the number one priority of every member of our University community,” said Chair of the National University Board of Trustees Ms. Jeanne Connelly. “There is no more fitting tribute to Dr. Lee’s 22 years of leadership of the National University System.”

As a result of the reaffirmation, National University’s next Capacity and Preparatory Review will be scheduled in fall 2019, followed by an Educational Effectiveness Review in spring 2021.

National was recognized by WASC for the work of the University’s faculty and staff over the years in creating sustainable support systems for student learning and success. National University also received several commendations which included, among others, recognition of its comprehensive faculty-led assessment processes, strong support systems for students from admission through graduation, and its training program for adjunct faculty. National University has been accredited since 1977 by the WASC Senior Commission, the accrediting body for all universities and colleges in California, Hawaii, Guam, and the Pacific Basin.

For more information about National University’s military-friendly programs, visit http://www.nu.edu/OurUniversity/TheUniversity/Accreditation.html

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR VETERAN STUDENT SUCCESS OPENS AT SPECTRUM

WASC REAFFIRMS NATIONAL UNIVERSITY’S ACCREDITATION THROUGH 2021

 CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR VETERAN STUDENT SUCCESS OPENS AT SPECTRUM
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY SYSTEM INVITATIONAL RAISES MORE THAN $166,000

On Monday, May 16, more than 115 members of the University System community, including trustees, administrators, faculty, volunteers, and friends of the System, gathered at picturesque Morgan Run Club & Resort in Rancho Santa Fe, California, for the fifth annual National University System Invitational Golf Tournament.

More than 126 golfers made up 30 foursomes, which competed in a scramble best ball format, while also participating in a pre-round putting contest, on-course long drive and closest to the pin contests. In addition, more than 70 individuals and companies contributed to hole sponsorships, with Dan Schreiber and JGD & Associates generously sponsoring the 19th Hole — the reception and silent auction immediately following the tournament.

Always one of the highlights of the event, the silent auction featured more and better items than ever, including dinner for six with Chef Andrew Bard, a deluxe casta and golf package at La Quinta Resort & Club, a case of wine from Nuance Wines, a set of TaylorMade Burner 2 Irons, various hotel stays, including at the JW Marriott in Los Angeles, the Marriott Marquis and Marina, and Coronado Island Resort; an autographed guitar from the Goo Goo Dolls, autographed sports memorabilia from the San Diego Chargers, Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, and the San Diego State men’s basketball team; professional photography sessions; tickets to sporting events; numerous golf outings; a framed professional photograph of the second hole at Torrey Pines golf course; and much more.

As a result of everyone’s generous support, the tournament raised more than $83,000, which was matched by the University, resulting in more than $166,000 being added to the endowment for scholarships to the National University Golf Academy. Over the past five years, the National University System Invitational golf tournaments have collectively raised more than $450,000 for the University’s endowment.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY GOLF ACADEMY GARNERS WIDESPREAD ATTENTION

Since its inception, the National University Golf Academy has gained widespread local, regional, and national recognition to National University and its programs, and the past year has been no exception.

From the very first media mention of the Golf Academy in The Wall Street Journal in August of 2009, the academy has now been featured in various print, electronic, and online media outlets no fewer than 65 times, including 22 times in newspapers, 11 magazine articles, 19 television interviews, 10 radio spots, and three websites.

Over the past year, the Golf Academy has regularly been featured in such newspapers as the San Diego Union-Tribune, with the Academy’s Dean Dr. Charles “Mac” Powell, being interviewed repeatedly about sports psychology by columnist Nick Canaipa. In the San Diego region, the North County Times has also covered the Golf Academy, specifically this year’s salute to local military golf tournament.

Ted Norby, the Director of Instruction at the Golf Academy’s Carlsbad campus, has become a regularly expert contributor on KUSI-TV’s Paul Rudy sports shows. Norby offered expert analysis during four major tournaments this year, including the Master’s, U.S. Open, British Open, and PGA Championship.

In fact, across the country the military tournaments and clinics the Golf Academy’s leadership team has been hosting at installations have been featured in such outlets as the Cherry Point Windsock in North Carolina and NorthwestMilitary.com. Plans for several other military clinics and tournaments later this year and next year are being finalized.

In September, the Golf Academy hosted a four-person Aspiring Golf Professionals match play event at Torrey Pines Golf Course, site of the 2008 U.S. Open and the annual Farmer’s Insurance Open. The participants were competing for two scholarships valued at $50,000 to the National University Golf Academy. In the first group, Eric Lippert of Cherry Point Windsock, California defeated El Cajon’s Andrew Bogan. In the second group, John David Marshall of St. Louis, Missouri bested Santa Barbara’s Joey Crawford by one stroke.

The match play event was popular with the media, with the San Diego Union-Tribune’s golf writer Tod Leonard writing a feature about it the day of the event and then following up with notes and quotes from the winners the next day. KUSI-TV also sent a camera and reporter to cover the event, which was then featured on the station’s nightly sports cast.

To learn more about the Golf Academy’s press coverage or to watch the news segments, visit www.nugolfacademy.org/About/Press-Room.html.

NATIONAL LEADS CALIFORNIA IN PREPARING CREDENTIALED TEACHERS FOR 11TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Long recognized as one of California’s leaders in preparing quality teachers, National University this year once again prepared more teachers for credentialing than any other single institution of higher education in the State, according to figures released by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).

As a result, National University has now prepared more teachers than any other single California institution in each of the past 11 years dating back to the 2000-2001 academic year.

Between July 1, 2009, and June 30, 2010, 1,653 teachers earned their single-subject, multiple-subject, and education specialist teaching credentials through National University, according to the 13th annual report on state teacher supply issued by the CTC in April 2011. To view the CTC’s report, visit http://www.ctc.ca.gov/reports/TS_2009-2010AnnualRpt.pdf. The source of credentialed teachers by university begins on Page 18 of the report.

Students completing their teaching credentials at National University accounted for 10 percent of the statewide grand total during that time period. National University’s School of Education is also recognized for the diversity of its graduates and students completing their teaching credentials. Diverse Issues in Higher Education ranks National University First in California and fifth in the nation in granting master’s degrees in education to all minorities.

ONLINE INFORMATION CENTERS OFFER UNIQUE ACCESS TO NATIONAL UNIVERSITY’S ONLINE PROGRAMS

When National University opened its first Online Information Centers in 2008, Chancellor Jerry C. Lee’s vision for the future of the University’s online programs began spreading to geographic regions previously untouched by National. Today, that vision has spread across California and beyond.

Since early 2010, National University has opened Online Information Centers throughout California in National City, Palm Desert, Santa Ana, Pasadena, Long Beach, El Cajon and Roseville, all joining existing Online Information Centers in West Covina and Temecula.

The number of Online Information Centers has continued to grow during the current fiscal year, with Centers scheduled to open or having already opened in California in Riverside, Fairfield, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Santa Ana, Northridge, Pleasanton, and Torrance. National University International also will be opening and operating Centers in Houston, Texas and Atlanta, Georgia.

At the Online Information Centers, prospective students are introduced to information about National University’s degree, credential, and certificate programs. Students are also assisted by trained advisors, experience online classes, and receive educational and financial aid counseling, as well as assistance with enrolling in one of National University’s more than 70 programs that can be completed 100 percent online.

National University International, the marketing arm for the affiliates of the National University System outside of California, also operates Online Information Centers in Summerlin, Nevada; Orlando, Florida; Dallas, Texas; and Quantico, Virginia, the first such educational center of its kind on a United States military base.

PREMIER FACULTY RECOGNIZED WITH PRESIDENT’S PROFESSORATE AWARDS

Each year, exceptional faculty members at National University are nominated by their peers, colleagues, and deans for the distinguished President’s Professorate Award. This year, the recipients represented the true excellence of the University’s educators.

The 2011 President’s Professorate Award recipients were:

- Dr. Enid Acosta-Tello
- Dr. Nelson Altamirano
- Mr. Scott Campbell (not pictured)
- Dr. John Carta-Falsa
- Ms. Kala Crobarger
- Dr. Maryam Davodzi-Far
- Dr. Pradip Dey
- Dr. Consolacion Fajardo
- Dr. Kay Dee Caywood
- Dr. Sara Kelly
- Dr. Michael Maxwell
- Mr. Frank Montesonti
- Dr. Jeffrey Mueller
- Dr. Gordon Romney
- Dr. Theresa Tarrant

Said President Patricia Potter, “Please join me in congratulating these truly outstanding members of our faculty. We are grateful for the commitment these dedicated individuals exhibited this year on behalf of our entire University community.”

OUTSTANDING STAFF RECOGNIZED WITH PRESIDENT’S PLAYER AWARDS

Annually, outstanding staff members who have exhibited extraordinary service to National University, its students, and the community are nominated by their peers, colleagues, deans, and vice presidents for the President’s Player Awards. The 2011 recipients represented a wide range of responsibilities throughout the University community.

The 15 men and women who were the 2011 President’s Player Award winners included:

- Ms. Karina Amenero, Center Assistant
- Ms. Angela Bossio, Center Assistant
- Ms. Jane Campopos, Assistant to the Faculty
- Ms. Hope Espinosa, Receptionist
- Mr. Ronald Felix, Admissions Advisor II
- Ms. Stella Fernandez, Center Assistant (not pictured)
- Ms. Monique Haithcock, IT Support Specialist (not pictured)
- Mr. Oscar Hernandez, Admissions Advisor II
- Mr. Dave Hokstad, Conference Service Coordinator
- Mr. Frank Montesonti, Building Services Manager
- Ms. Hoa Nguyen, Admissions Counselor
- Ms. Hope Espinosa, Receptionist
- Mr. Jonathan Roloff, Conference Service Coordinator
- Mr. Earl Shockley, Financial Aid Technician

“Each year’s President’s Player Award winners went above and beyond in their service to our entire University community, including in their support of our students, faculty and staff,” said President Patricia Potter. “They all should be commended for their dedication to the core values that make National University a unique and special place to work.”
African Americans, Asian including overall, Hispanics, minorities in every category, in the state in granting master's degrees in education to minority students. Overall, National was second in the state in granting master’s degrees in all disciplines to minority students. National also was tied for second in the state in granting master’s degrees in all disciplines to minority students. National University was second in the nation in granting master’s degrees in education to all minority students. Overall, National University was 11th in the nation in granting master’s degrees in all disciplines combined to minority students. To learn more about Diverse Issues in Higher Education’s rankings, visit http://diverseeducation.com/top100/. To review the CTC’s report on teacher credentialing, visit http://www.ctc.ca.gov/reports/TS_2009-2010_AnnualReport.pdf. The source of credentialed teachers by university begins on page 18 of the report.

President Patricia Potter presents Dr. Lorna Zukas with the President’s Distinguished Teaching Award.

Patricia Potter, President of National University, bestowed the President’s Distinguished Teaching Award upon Dr. Lorna Zukas, a Professor in the Department of Social Sciences in the College of Letters and Sciences, during this year’s San Diego Commencement Ceremony.

The Distinguished Teaching Award recognizes faculty who demonstrate National University’s commitment to the highest quality of instruction and to highlight full-time faculty who display excellence in their teaching.

“Through the excellence your teaching, Dr. Zukas, you set the standard of accomplishment for our entire faculty and re-confirm the University’s dedication to teaching as its highest priority,” said President Potter upon bestowing the award upon Dr. Zukas.

Dr. Zukas has been with National University since 1996. During her time at National, she has held several positions, including Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Director of the Center for Cultural and Ethnic Studies, Visiting Professor, Associate Faculty, and Adjunct Faculty. She also has taught at the Union Institute, the University of California, San Diego, and California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Dr. Zukas holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, San Diego. She earned a Master's in Sociology from California State University, Dominguez Hills and a Bachelor's in Sociology from California State University, Long Beach.

Dr. Zukas is a member of the American Sociological Association and the Midwest Sociological Association and has been invited to speak at several conferences around the country.

She is also a member of the American Psychological Association and the National Association of Social Workers.

She has published numerous articles and book chapters on various topics related to social inequality, race, and ethnicity.

She has received several awards for her research and teaching, including the Outstanding Teacher Award from the National University College of Letters and Sciences.

Her research interests include race, ethnicity, and inequality, with a focus on the experiences of African American women.
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY TO LAUNCH SCHOOLS APP ON FACEBOOK

In an effort to stay connected with prospective and current students as well as with alumni, National University and the affiliates of the National University System have expanded their social media footprint to a diverse range of outlets.

National University officially launched a page on Facebook in June 2009, and since that time, the number of people who “Like” the page has grown to more than 7,300, with more people joining every day. In addition to National’s Facebook pages, John F. Kennedy University, National University, Westmed College, the National University Center for Integrative Health’s online resource Integrative Health Review, and the National University Virtual High School all now have pages on Facebook.

In an effort to create a sense of community amongst its students, National University launched the Schools App on Facebook in November of this year, providing a place for students to join interactive forums designed to create a greater connection between each other and the University.

The National University Golf Academy has been particularly active on Facebook, with regular new posts from Directors of Instruction Ted Norby in Carlsbad and Mike Springer in Fresno. The posts focus on results of golf tournaments, equipment, techniques, and tips. Earlier this year, the Golf Academy launched an Aspiring Professionals Scholarship program on Facebook and received more than 2,000 new “Friend Requests” as a result. Today, the Golf Academy has 2,819 “Likes”.

John F. Kennedy University launched its Facebook page in September of 2010 and already has 607 “Likes”. JFK University’s page is utilized by students, faculty, and staff to stay connected on a variety of topics.

National University Virtual High School launched its Facebook page almost two years ago to communicate with students, parents, and teachers on a wide range of important updates, including reminders about standardized testing (SATs), college application deadlines, and NUNHS course schedules.

National University’s Twitter page launched in August 2009, and today the University has 973 followers. The number of interactions and people “Re-Tweeting” the University’s posts continues to increase on a regular basis. Spectrum Pacific Learning and Integrative Health Review also are active on Twitter.

The National University Golf Academy has an impressive video collection. Moving forward, through a coordinated Five-Year Social Media Strategy, the University and its follow System affiliates will continue to increase their presence on other social media outlets such as Flickr and LinkedIn, where National and JFK University will continue to actively reach out to their alumni. National University now has 1,237 followers on LinkedIn. JFK University, which launched its LinkedIn page in September of 2010, already has more than 410 followers.

Graduates and those obtaining their teaching credentials from the National University School of Education are recognized as some of the best educators in California, based on assessments by the National Blue Ribbon School competition, the California Distinguished School Program, and various teachers of the year competitions.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AND SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE SIGN MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Earlier this year, National University and San Diego City College signed an agreement that will ease the transition from an associate’s degree to a bachelor’s degree at National University for thousands of local students.

The two institutions formally signed a “Memorandum of Agreement,” making it easier for students of San Diego City College to pursue a bachelor’s degree to a bachelor’s degree at National University for thousands of local students.

“With its nearly 100 years in the community, City College is preparing students for the next century, and sees this partnership with National University as another resource to prepare our students in high-demand career fields like information technology,” said Dr. Terry Burgess, President of San Diego City College.

The agreement between the two schools includes numerous benefits for students, including: an extension of the National University Transfer to Triumph scholarship program, established under the Memorandum of Understanding between the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office and National University, and National University’s Promising Scholar scholarship to transfer students from San Diego College who enroll in National University course offered at San Diego City College’s campuses. National will offer eligible students the opportunity to transfer as early as their freshman year. Students must declare an academic program to San Diego City College students and the college’s location at 1333 Park Boulevard in downtown San Diego, and City College students, employees and alumni will be eligible to receive a 10 percent discount on the cost of tuition for all National University courses taken on-site at a San Diego City College campus.

Continued from page 7

University for more than 10 years, a figure that makes up nearly one quarter of the National University community.

One distinct reason for the loyalty of the University’s employees is Dr. Lee’s insistence that National remains committed to its employees. Once again at this year’s assembly, Dr. Lee reiterated a promise that he has made for each of the past three years.

“As you will remember, I promised you at last year’s assembly luncheon and the year before that no National University System employee would lose his or her job due a reduction in salary or benefits due to the economic downturn, and I kept those promises,” said Dr. Lee.

“Today, I renew my pledge to you – no National University System employee will lose his or her job or see a reduction in salary or benefits due to the economic downturn.”

After a rousing standing ovation, Chancellor Lee encouraged the University System to celebrate its accomplishments.

“The time the National University System opens a new campus or Online Information Center, adds a new degree program, or receives an award, we have cause to celebrate,” said Dr. Lee. “Every time an alumnus achieves a new career milestone, volunteers for community service, or encourages others to pursue higher education, we have cause to celebrate.”

At the assembly, National’s cause for celebration was highlighted by a joyous rendition of Paul Anka’s memorable song “Jubilation” performed by the St. James Choir.

Following the performance, Dr. Lee encouraged the collective University System Community to remain committed to its students. “In our 40th year, we celebrate the qualities that distinguish us from other universities, as well as those qualities that join us in our common goals,” said Dr. Lee.

“Like other universities, our mission is to provide students with rigorous, high-quality educational opportunities, to enhance their abilities to establish careers in their chosen professions while contributing to the greater good of society today. 40 years after our founding as a non-traditional institution, we find ourselves as full participants within the California higher education community.

“National University is different than other universities, and we celebrate those differences. We have never lost sight of the fact that we owe our students at least as much dedication as we ask from them. Today, we find ourselves once again in an educational atmosphere that is rapidly changing, an atmosphere that is now rapidly adopting the cutting-edge ideas we pioneered 40 years ago. In the next 40 years, National University will play an increasingly critical role in the education of our nation’s population.

“During this, our 40th Anniversary, let us exult briefly in what we have accomplished together and then continue along the path we have shared for so long with the same dedication and devotion. There is work yet to do – to finish what we started.”
During his time as President, Dr. Lee oversaw the remarkable transformation of National University as it became the second-largest private, nonprofit institution of higher education in California and the 12th-largest in the United States. Under Dr. Lee, National University recorded an impressive list of accomplishments, including:

- Preparing more teachers each year than any other single California institution for the past 11 years in a row; having the largest number of graduate students in California and the sixth-largest graduate program in the nation; and housing the largest master’s degree program in special education in California and the second-largest in the nation.
- National University also has been recognized for offering access to traditionally underserved learners. Today, National University ranks first in California in awarding master’s degrees to Hispanics, African Americans and women, and first in the nation in awarding master’s degrees in education to Hispanics and African Americans.
- Other notable accomplishments under Dr. Lee include: an alumni community of more than 130,000; endowment funds totaling more than $400 million, coupled with the fact that National University is debt-free; and National University being named to the 2010 “Best Colleges to Work For” Honor Roll by The Chronicle of Higher Education.

The National University System Board of Trustees has begun to plan the search process for the next Chancellor. The Board will announce the initiative and details of the search process in February 2012.

### CENTER FOR CULTURAL AND ETHNIC STUDIES REACHES LOCAL COMMUNITIES WITH ECOFAIR AND SPIRAL BOUND

The Center for Cultural and Ethnic Studies under the College of Letters and Sciences at National University has an impressive and altruistic goal: to foster educational opportunities by bringing together faculty, students, community members, and academics and practitioners in the humanities to encourage dialog over important social and cultural issues.

During the past year, the Center kept up its already sterling reputation with two community-minded events, starting with its third annual EcoFair at the University’s Spectrum Business Park campus in April, followed by Spiral Bound, an exhibit of notebooks from artists from New York and San Diego, which ran at the University’s La Mesa campus from June into July.

This year’s EcoFair was particularly well received, with approximately 500 attendees and information booths and demonstrations from more than 25 local companies, government agencies, and NGOs, plus environmentally-friendly activities for families and children.

EcoFair was part of National University’s community outreach efforts to educate and demonstrate concepts about environmental and economic sustainability and stewardship. This year’s theme was “Save Green by Going Green” and promoted household solutions that are earth-friendly and ultimately wallet-friendly.

EcoFair was a hit with the local media, with Dr. Michael Maxwell being interviewed on two local morning television shows prior to the fair, including on FOX 5 News and KNSD-TV, the local San Diego NBC affiliate.

Spiral Bound was the brainchild of Annette Cyr, assistant professor in the Department of Arts and Humanities in the College of Letters and Sciences. The exhibit included sketch books and project drafts – digital, paper, and even a few three-dimensional pieces – from artists in San Diego and New York. Cyr and Joan Dart collected the pieces from the San Diego artists, and the artists from New York were selected by Romanov Grave, a collective of writers, curators, and artists in New York City.

Spiral Bound also was popular with the media, including Cyr and the exhibit being featured in an article in San Diego City Beat, a local newspaper.

### NATIONAL UNIVERSITY NAMED ONE OF SAN DIEGO’S TOP 100 BRANDS

The National University System’s Communications Group earned an impressive list of awards over the past several years for a variety of specially produced marketing pieces that artfully and successfully communicated the offerings of the System’s affiliates.

Among the most impressive distinctions earned by National University this year was recognition from the San Diego Ad Club as one of the region’s Top 100 Brands. The Ad Club presented its list as a historic assemblage of the 100 most influential and recognizable San Diego brands of the past 100 years. The 100 brands were selected by a panel of more than 50 prominent expert judges, with qualifications covering a variety of expertise, including marketing, branding, media, history, and educational backgrounds.

Competition for all of the awards listed below is intense, with each contest attracting entries from thousands of organizations from around the world. In addition to being named one of San Diego’s Top 100 Brands, other recent awards garnered by the National University System include:

- **MOHAWK**
  - For The National University System 2010 Annual Report
  - **PREMIER PRINT AWARDS**
    - Certificate of Merit for the 2011 National University Vision magazine
    - **2010 VISION AWARDS**
      - Platinum Award for The National University System 2010 Annual Report

### CHANCELLOR LEE ENCOURAGES PERFORMANCE

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"The National University System is at a convergence. We are a critical place in our young history," said Dr. Lee. "To quote Viktor Frankl: 'The last great freedom we have is the freedom to choose.' Which path will we choose? Will we choose growth and improvement? Or will we choose decline?"

"Our response will be performance. We will choose to perform."

To help focus the efforts of the System over the coming year, Dr. Lee established four performance goals, including: growth; “scores,” which are new ideas and ways of doing business that improve the System’s service to its students; quality educational content and instruction; and a continued focus on the image and brand of National University and the affiliates of the National University System.

"We have had a profound impact on the communities we serve, and have made a significant positive difference in the lives of our students, in the organizations in which they serve, in the lives of the children that they teach or the patients they treat. We have changed the lives of more than 130,000 graduates in a powerful way,” said Dr. Lee.

"National University has always defied convention,” continued Dr. Lee. “We have been faced with challenges in the past, and every time we have chosen to embrace those challenges as opportunities to remain committed to serving our students. Our performance will require defiance of the hazards of mediocrity and complacency. ‘Good enough’ has never been, and can never be our benchmark."

"In the year ahead, I encourage each of you to perform in a manner that will make your colleagues of the National University System proud."

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