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**CSU EAST BAY PRESIDENT TO DELIVER WINTER '11 RIZZA
LECTURE ON AFGHANISTAN**

(Vallejo, CA – January 19, 2011)...Dr. Mohammad H. Qayoumi, the President of The California State University East Bay, an engineer, educator, and native of Afghanistan, will deliver the Winter 2011 Rizza Lecture *New Perspectives on Afghanistan*, at The California Maritime Academy campus on Tuesday, February 1st. The free talk will take place in Rizza Auditorium at 10:50 a.m. and is open to campus students, faculty, staff and the general public.

Dr. Qayoumi assumed the leadership of CSU East Bay in 2006, becoming the first person of Afghan descent to head a major U.S. University. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from American University of Beirut in 1975. He holds four graduate degrees from the University of Cincinnati: a Master of Science in nuclear engineering (1979), a Master of Science in electrical and computer engineering (1980), an MBA in Finance (1984), and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering (1983). He is a licensed professional engineer and a certified management accountant.

Before coming to the U.S, Dr. Qayoumi worked as a communications engineer in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and as a project electrical engineer in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. He has served as a senior advisor to the Minister of Finance of Afghanistan from 2002 to 2005 and member of the board of directors for the Central Bank of Afghanistan from 2004 to 2007.

President Qayoumi is active in many professional organizations, and serves in many local boards including the Commonwealth Club, the KQED Inc., The Bay Area Council, the East Bay Economic Alliance, and as a member of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group.

He served as a senior advisor for the Government of Afghanistan for three years from 2002-2004, providing key direction in the successful implementation of the new currency and monetary policies, anti-money laundering, and banking supervision; leading the reengineering of financial and administrative processes and automating payment and budgeting systems at the Ministry of Finance; and overseeing the development of the nation's electricity masterplan. He has published eight books, over 85 articles and has made technical presentations throughout the U.S. and in ten other countries.

Afghanistan has been a focal point of world news for the past decade, yet only a small portion of the public has had a fair understanding of the country's profound challenges or tremendous opportunities. Although the ousting of the Taliban in late 2001 created a tremendous level of hope and optimism, the results of the past nine years have fallen woefully short of the aspirations of the Afghan people or the expectations of the world community. This presentation will provide a brief historical overview of the country and examine future political and economic prospects of Afghanistan in the larger regional context with potential implications and impact for the Central Asian Region.

The Rizza Lecture Series, organized by The Academic Senate of The California Maritime Academy, is underwritten by a generous endowment grant from former Academy Superintendent and President Rear Admiral Joseph Rizza. The program is designed to bring cutting-edge lecturers to the campus to explore the challenging issues of our time.

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