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### **Concordia and USC Host Program on California Governance**

**Irvine**– The Concordia University [Center for Public Policy](#) and the University of Southern California [Center for Religion in Civic Culture](#) are teaming up to seek solutions for the dysfunction in California governance. “**California Governance–A Symposium on Solutions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**” will bring together leaders from business, state and local government, journalism and the community to identify problems facing California government and what can be done to better address issues facing Californians. “This is one of the few programs that brings together people from multiple points of view to have a conversation about California and how we can break the gridlock in Sacramento,” said Keith Curry, Director of the Concordia Center for Public Policy. “Our goal is to see if we can find common ground on the real issues facing California residents and businesses and identify a road map for moving our state forward,” Curry continued.

The Symposium will take place on July 27<sup>th</sup> at the Irvine City Hall. The program will feature leaders from business, including Lucy Dunn, CEO of the Orange County Business Council, along with former legislators and local elected officials Marian Bergeson, Curt Pringle, Supervisor Bill Campbell and Laguna Niguel City Council Member Robert Ming. Distinguished journalists Rick Reiff, PBS SoCal; Dan Walters, the Sacramento Bee; Brian Calle, the Orange County Register; and Norberto Santana, Voice of OC will join Stanford University lecturer and President of Govern California David Crane to share new ideas for reform along with California Forward leader Jim Mayer.

The program will also feature community leaders Mark Whitlock of the USC Cecil Murray Center, Mary Anne Foo of the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance and Dr. Jose Moreno of the Anaheim Board of Education. “We want to hear from all perspectives and identify strategies to make California great again,” said Curry.

The program will take place from 8:00am–12:30pm at the Irvine City Hall council chambers, One Civic Center Plaza, off Alton in Irvine. There is no cost to attend but reservations are required. Call 949 214-3200 to RSVP or reserve your space online at <http://bit.ly/GoverningCA>. In addition to Concordia and USC, this program is co-sponsored by the Orange County Business Council, Association of California Cities Orange County, California Forward and the Pacific Research Institute. It is made possible by a grant from the James Irvine Foundation.

#### **About Concordia University Irvine**

Concordia University Irvine is a U.S. News Top Tier Regional University that prepares students for their vocations—their calling in life. CUI offers undergraduate, graduate, and adult degree programs in a beautiful Southern California location, with online and regional cohort options.

A member of the Concordia University system of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod and guided by the Great Commission of Christ Jesus and the Lutheran Confessions, [Concordia University Irvine](#) empowers students through the liberal arts and professional studies for lives of learning, service and leadership.

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