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NEWS RELEASE
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**Sonoma Valley Fund Names Long-time Educator and Foundation Executive
as its Newest Board Member**

October 5, 2012 — Sonoma Valley resident Dennis Collins has joined the Board of Sonoma Valley Fund. Mr. Collins has earned an international reputation as an educator, development professional and foundation executive.

“Dennis brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our board,” says Barbara Young, Sonoma Valley Fund President. “He has a deep understanding of current issues facing our community and will be an invaluable resource to the Sonoma Valley Fund and all of our nonprofit partners. ”

Dennis Collins was the Founding Headmaster of the nationally recognized San Francisco University High School. He went on to become the Chief Executive Officer of the James Irvine Foundation from 1986 to 2002. During his tenure, the Foundation grew its asset base from \$385 million to \$1.7 billion. Dennis has also had a longstanding relationship with Occidental College in Southern California. Early in his career, he was both Dean of Students and Director of Admissions. More recently, Dennis returned to Occidental to become Senior Vice President for Institutional Advancement and External Relations, capping an outstanding career dedicated to education.

Dennis earned both a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Stanford University. He has also been honored with a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Mills College and a Doctor of Laws degree from the University of San Diego. Dennis has served on many boards, including the Board of Trustees of Occidental College, where he was Board Chair,

and the University of Southern California Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy, as a founding board member.

Dennis was raised in Seattle, Washington, and he and his wife, Mollie, moved to Sonoma in 2007. They have two daughters and six grandchildren, all of whom live in the Bay Area. Dennis' wife Mollie was a founding board member of Sonoma's Impact100.

An affiliate of Community Foundation Sonoma County, Sonoma Valley Fund was created and is managed by respected community leaders to help sustain and improve the Valley's unique socioeconomic, environmental, and cultural qualities for generations to come. Sonoma Valley Fund promotes and facilitates local philanthropy and legacy giving by serving as a bridge to the future, helping nonprofits build successful legacy and endowment programs, encouraging estate-planning professionals to discuss Sonoma Valley bequests with their clients, offering a set of prudent investment options for donors and non-profits, and providing trustworthy, responsible, and thoughtful stewardship of donor gifts. No other local organization unites all constituencies around the purpose of endowing the Sonoma Valley community as a whole. For more information visit www.sonomavalleyfund.org.

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