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**For Immediate Release**

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## **El Camino College Choral Director to Attend U.S. Institute of Peace Seminar**

El Camino College choral director Dr. Joanna Medawar Nacheff was recently selected to attend the U.S. Institute of Peace 2008 Community College Faculty and Administrators Seminar in Washington, D.C. this month.

“Global Peace and Security in Community Colleges and the Communities They Serve” is the title of the seminar that will give community college faculty and administrators an opportunity to carefully examine the nature of international peace and security and to address how community colleges can relate this to the constituencies they serve.

Nacheff is an award-winning professor who has twice conducted in Carnegie Hall and has toured the world, conducting performing groups. In addition to serving as director of choral activities at El Camino College, she is also on the faculty of California State University, Dominguez Hills, the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, and is the artistic Director for Los Cancioneros Master Chorale. As a church musician, Nacheff served as minister of music at Peninsula Community Church from 1980 - 1997, and is now choir director.

In 2004, Nacheff was among the El Camino College staff selected to participate in a new program initiated by the United States Department of State titled, “Global Education Through Technology.” As speaker and “Citizen Diplomat,” she traveled to Italy and her native Lebanon and implemented a “virtual-classroom” about world cultures, led master classes in choral music and planned future collaborations of cultural exchanges.

As a charter board member for the LA/Beirut sister city organization, Nacheff participated in the delegation’s visit to Lebanon in June 2006. Her first major cultural exchange program was completed last May, organizing and leading the 2007 Los Angeles concert tour/visit of the Notre Dame University Chorale from Lebanon to Southern California.

Nacheff earned a bachelor’s degree in piano performance from California State University, Dominguez Hills, and a doctorate and master’s in choral music from USC.

Among her many awards, Nacheff was honored by the City of Torrance Cultural Arts Commission with the “2005 Excellence in Arts Award” in music. This past April, she received the 2008 Daily Breeze Director’s Award for “Making a Difference” in the South Bay.

Nacheff is a member of the advisory board for the Torrance Performing Arts Consortium, and a member of the Lebanese Ladies Cultural Society, the African Diaspora of Sacred Music, and the American Choral Directors Association.

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