Press Release

Assistant Secretary of Commerce to Speak at Venture Conference

Stockton, Calif.—May 14, 2007—San Joaquin Venture Funding and Entrepreneurship Conference organizers announced today that U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Sandy K. Baruah has been confirmed as a speaker at the June 21 event occurring at the Raymond Great Hall on the University of the Pacific campus. Secretary Baruah will join Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi and noted venture capitalist Franklin “Pitch” Johnson as three of the featured speakers at the conference.

The conference begins at 7:30 a.m. and concludes at 1:30 p.m. An optional 3-hour workshop for entrepreneurs, will occur immediately afterward. For more details about the event and to register visit www.goldencapital.net or call (530) 893-8828. Advance registration is $55, while on-site registration on the date of the event is $75. Seating is limited, so early registration is highly advisable.

The conference is being organized by the University of the Pacific, San Joaquin Partnership/Business Council, San Joaquin Delta College Small Business Development Center, San Joaquin County Economic Development Association, Central Valley Fund and Golden Capital Network. Mark Plovnick, Director of Economic Development at the University of the Pacific and the coordinator of the committee organizing the conference, described the conference as part of a broader effort to create angel capital and venture capital funds focused on San Joaquin County that will help stimulate entrepreneurship in the region, resulting in increased job creation and economic development. Event committee member Joe Johnson, former President and CEO of Union Safe Deposit Bank said, “One of the financial tools that this area has always lacked was financial support for growing businesses that need more capital. This conference is an important part of the process in creating a vehicle to help our growing businesses.”

Other speakers at the conference will include Mike Locke, President and CEO of the San Joaquin Partnership and Paul Yett, Managing Director of Hamilton Lane. The San Joaquin Partnership is a County-wide economic development organization whose membership includes a broad coalition of public sector and private business organizations.
within the County. Locke will discuss the current state of economic development in the County and the need for increased emphasis on entrepreneurship. Hamilton Lane is a private equity and hedge fund investment management company. Yett will describe Hamilton Lane’s plans for deploying $500 million in CalPers funds that were recently awarded to Hamilton Lane to manage as private equity investments in under-served markets in California, such as here in the Central Valley.

In addition to presentations by business and government leaders, the conference will feature panels representing many of Northern California’s angel investor groups and venture capital funds. These panels will describe the angel/venture investing processes and will also be judging presentations by several local businesses seeking funding for their start-up and/or growth. Businesses interested in presenting can either be mature, expanding businesses, or start-up innovation-based ventures. To apply to be a presenter, submit up to a 3-page executive summary to entrepreneur@goldencapital.net.

“Our goal in hosting this forum is to showcase the very best growth companies in the Valley, and to demonstrate they are great candidates for private equity investment,” said Brad Triebsch, a partner in the new Central Valley Fund. “This conference provides the only current venue in San Joaquin County for fast-growth potential businesses to demonstrate their capabilities, and a number of leading angel investor groups, venture capital funds, and commercial banking institutions will be using this event as an important measuring stick for what’s occurring in the San Joaquin area.”

Some 30 businesses, organizations and government entities from throughout the region have signed on as sponsors of the conference including such diverse interests as the Bank of Agriculture and Commerce, the Port of Stockton, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the San Joaquin County Revolving Loan Fund, the University of the Pacific, Bekins-Pacific Storage, KeyBank, General Mills, San Joaquin County, Moss Adams LLP, Wells Fargo, Hakeem, Ellis & Marengo, Farmers and Merchants Bank, the Central Valley Fund, the cities of Stockton, Tracy, Lodi and Lathrop, and many others.

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