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PRESS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release**

**Marc Johnson, Sanger Unified School District
Superintendent, joins Institute's Board of Directors**

**Johnson accepts appointment to local nonprofit working to build the
Fresno Aquarium**

FRESNO – Superintendent Marc Johnson of the Sanger Unified School District, has joined the board of directors of Aquarius Aquarium Institute, the Fresno-based nonprofit organization announced today. Johnson, the American Association of School Administrators' 2011 National Superintendent of the Year, was introduced Monday to the Institute's board at a meeting in Fresno.

Board Chair Aletha Lang had high praise for Johnson:

"Marc loves the Valley and cares deeply for our children. His talents will bring invaluable focus to the Institute's board as we continue to develop our mission of delivering meaningful educational opportunities that will ultimately bring parity to our region when compared to other parts of our state."

In a study released Wednesday by The Education Trust-West, Sanger Unified School District graduated 94% of its Hispanic and black students in 2012 - the highest rate among area school districts.

Johnson has been superintendent of the Sanger School District since 2003. The highly diverse student population includes 82 percent minority enrollment, 76 percent free and reduced lunch recipients, and 24 percent English Language Learners. Johnson previously served as assistant superintendent of human resources and associate superintendent in the district. He is a graduate of Reedley Community College, California State University Fresno and Fresno Pacific University where he received his Masters degree and completed his credential programs. Johnson has been honored by both Reedley College and Fresno State as their Distinguished Alumnus.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

Aquarius Aquarium Institute (the Institute) is a Fresno-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) California Public Benefit corporation providing educational programs to schools and the public in the central San Joaquin Valley regarding our planet's aquatic resources – including the San Joaquin River watershed. The Institute is also working to build Phase One of its educational Fresno Aquarium facility designed by award-winning Fresno architect Arthur Dyson on its 10-acre campus donated by the Roy and Betty Jura family in 2006 overlooking the San Joaquin River adjacent to Highway 99 in Fresno County.

The Institute has launched a new Capital Campaign, *From the Ground Up*, to raise \$730,000 for the 6,000 sq. ft. life support basement of the Fresno Aquarium's Phase One building, which will be the first structure to be built on the campus and will contain the Aquarium's life support systems, quarantine tanks and laboratory. Donors may buy concrete blocks for \$100 (regular) and \$200 (large) to build the at-grade basement. More info: FresnoAquarium.org

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