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News Release

Joint Venture Silicon Valley Launches Benest Fellowship

SAN JOSE, California – November 18, 2009 - Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network, the public-private regional leadership organization serving the extended Silicon Valley of Northern California, has announced the launch of the Benest Fellowship. The fellowship program honors Dr. Frank Benest, the former City Manager of Palo Alto, California, who served on the Joint Venture Board and continues as a Senior Advisor to Joint Venture.

To enhance the competitiveness of the Silicon Valley region, Joint Venture brings together leaders from business, government, labor and the non-profit sectors to address a number of challenges, including economic prosperity, workforce development, climate protection, disaster preparedness, sustainable development, and statewide fiscal reform. The purpose of the Benest Fellowship is to engage promising university graduates in careers in local government and regional affairs.

Joint Venture pairs Benest Fellows with senior program officers, and assigns them to specific projects. They also participate in seminars and receive mentoring from regional leaders.

Russell Hancock, President and CEO of Joint Venture, recently announced that Eva Jellison, a 2009 graduate of Stanford University in public policy and economics, will serve as the inaugural Benest Fellow. Jellison will work on social media initiatives and other assigned projects.

According to Hancock, "The Benest Fellowship recognizes Frank as a tireless champion of regionalism and collaborative approaches to economic development. This fellowship also reflects Frank's sustained effort to recruit young people into public service."

For more information on Joint Venture or the Benest Fellowship, go to www.jointventure.org.

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