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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOKA UNIVERSITY TO ESTABLISH A CAMPUS IN ORANGE COUNTY

CALABASAS, CA -- Soka University of America and Mission Viejo Company today announced that an application has been filed with the County of Orange to establish a small liberal arts college and graduate school for U.S. and international students on approximately 100 acres in the community of Aliso Viejo. The campus, scheduled to open initially with approximately 300 students in the spring of 1999, will emphasize Pacific Rim studies.

The mostly residential Orange County campus will slowly expand to eventually include a library focusing on Pacific Rim research and studies; an auditorium/performing arts center; an art gallery; and indoor/outdoor athletic facilities, as well as other academic and dormitory structures.

"I feel that the location you have selected will be a fine place for an independent university," said 5th District Supervisor Marian Bergeson, in a letter to the University's president. "Soka University would be an important addition to the residents and businesses in the County of Orange."

"We're delighted to welcome Soka University to Aliso Viejo," said Bob Fisher, President of the Aliso Viejo Community Association. "We're looking forward to the exciting educational opportunities Soka will offer our residents and the fine recreational and cultural facilities that the university will provide for its students."
The campus will be home to the first "full-campus" private university in South Orange County. Several studies, including one by the Claremont Colleges, anticipate a 40% increase in incoming college freshmen in California over the next ten years.

Soka University of America, since 1987, has also owned a campus in Calabasas, California, which it will retain, and which operates under full approval of the California Council for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education. The Calabasas campus currently enrolls approximately 200 U.S. and international students and offers a master's degree in second and foreign language education; non-credit foreign language classes; the Pacific Basin Research Center, a public policy center operated jointly with Harvard University; and the Soka University Botanical Research Center and Nursery. It is affiliated with Soka University in Japan, ranked in an independent survey recently as the best private university in that nation in terms of student satisfaction.

Aliso Viejo is a 6,600-acre balanced planned community developed by Mission Viejo Company. It is located four miles from the Pacific Ocean and adjacent to Laguna Beach in South Orange County. Aliso Viejo currently has 21,000 residents, with 48,000 residents projected by completion of the planned community. In 1993, it was named the best-selling planned community in California according to the Arthur Anderson survey of new home sales. The acreage intended for the campus is already entitled for development.

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