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SOKA UNIVERSITY SELECTS DESIGN ARCHITECTS FOR ALISO VIEJO CAMPUS

ALISO VIEJO, CA -- After a five-month-long selection process, Soka University of America today announced that it has chosen Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates (HHPA) of Los Angeles as design architects for the campus core area of its Aliso Viejo campus. Design work is slated to begin immediately and will continue for approximately 18 months. Groundbreaking of the 103-acre site is anticipated to occur sometime this summer, and building construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in late 1997. The first undergraduate classes are expected to be held on campus in the fall of the year 2001.

Some of HHPA’s completed and current educational projects include the renovation and expansion of the Los Angeles Central Library, the CSU Ventura campus master plan, the Colburn School for Performing Arts (Los Angeles), the Student Activity Center at Middlebury College (Vermont), the Wellesley College Sports Center (Mass.), the Ritter Hall Laboratory for Scripps Institute at UC San Diego, and various projects for Stanford University.

HHPA will collaborate with Summit Architects, Inc. (Santa Monica), the University’s campus architect for master planning and project management, on building and site design issues. Initial work will include completion of the consultant team selection, verification of the
architectural program, and development of master plan concepts for owner review. The estimated project cost for Phase One is $100 million.

"HHPA was selected based on a combination of demonstrated design excellence, relevant project experience, and their commitment to realizing our institutional goals in the design," said Dr. Eric Hauber, the University's vice president for academic affairs.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to work with Soka University and Summit Architects, because we will be building, from the ground up, the region's first university specifically focused on the 21st century and the Pacific Rim," said Norman Pfeiffer, HHPA's Partner-in-Charge of the project.

The University's campus, which was approved for up to 2,500 students by the Orange County Planning Commission in March 1995, will 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. All classroom and study facilities will utilize state-of-the-art educational technology.

The campus will be home to the first "full-campus" private university in south Orange County. Several studies, including one by the Claremont Graduate School, anticipate a 40% increase in incoming college freshmen in California over the next 10-15 years.

Soka University of America is approved to operate by the California Council for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education. Its Calabasas-area campus, which the University will also continue to operate, 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; ESL classes for Japanese students; the Pacific Basin Research Center; and the Soka University Botanical Research Center and Nursery. Its sister institution, Soka University in Japan, was ranked in an Asahi Shimbun survey last year as the best private university in that nation in the category of student satisfaction.

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