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NEWS RELEASE

F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

COA Announces U.S. Bank Student Athletes of the Month

Sacramento, CA . . . The California Community Colleges Commission on Athletics (COA), in partnership with the California Community College Sports Information Association (CCCSIA) today named Dan Hestehauge (Cuesta College, basketball) and Leslie Ortiz (College of the Canyons, basketball) the COA/U.S. Bank Student Athletes of the Month for January.

Daniel Hestehauge is among the most dangerous marksmen in community college basketball. He fought through injuries early in the season and has turned up his level of play since January. Hestehauge is second in the Western State Conference with 19.0 points per game during conference play. He is averaging a solid 13.2 points per game overall and has added 2.4 rebounds and 1.3 assists per contest. He ranks among the state leaders in free throw (85.4%) and three-point percentage (41.9%) and his career marks of 82.6% from the free throw line and 40.8% from the three-point area both represent Cuesta records. His career scoring mark of 14.7 points per game is also among the top five in Cuesta history. The Cougars are 10-17 on the year, but their 4-3 mark in the Western State Conference has them in third place.

Leslie Ortiz has led the College of the Canyons Lady Cougars to a perfect 6-0 conference record through the month of January. The freshman point guard has her team on top of the Western State Conference-South Division Standings with an overall record of 14 wins and 9 losses and the Cougars are currently ranked 11th in the Southern California Coaches' Poll. Ortiz leads the team, and the conference, in assists and has totaled 234 assists on the season, including 100 in conference play. Against Santa Monica College on January 18, Ortiz had a season-high 23 assists in a 96-64 win, and more recently, she doled out 17 assists in a 92-65 win over Valley College on January 25. Through January, Ortiz is averaging 13.5 points per game and an amazing 16.6 assists per game.

U.S. Bank is the "Official Financial Services Provider" of the COA and California community college athletics. U.S. Bank is also the official presenting sponsor of all California community college championship events, including the 2005-06 COA Championship Festival in Fresno, CA.

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Student athlete biographies provided by the CCCSIA.

COA