



Los Angeles Area  
Chamber of Commerce

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Marie Condron, 213.925.9605

### **L.A. AREA CHAMBER'S 117<sup>TH</sup> INAUGURAL DINNER TO INSTALL DAVE NICHOLS AS BOARD CHAIR**

#### ***Event to Honor Former Paramount Head, Philanthropist Shirley Lansing and University of Southern California President Steve Sample***

**December 2, 2005 (Los Angeles)** -- More than 1,100 Los Angeles "movers and shakers," including elected officials, business and civic leaders, are expected to celebrate the 117<sup>th</sup> year of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce at the organization's annual Inaugural Dinner at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, in Beverly Hills.

At the gala event, Dave Nichols, senior vice president, **AT&T**, will be installed as the new Chair of the Board. He takes the reins from immediate past chair Christopher Martin, CEO, AC Martin Partners, one of Los Angeles' oldest architecture and planning firms.

"Because it played such an integral part in this region's history, the Los Angeles Area Chamber has an all the more crucial role in determining its vision for the future," Nichols said. "I am honored to be filling the position of Chair in 2006 – each year, the Chamber makes its mark on the region by sounding a voice on the issues that enhance quality of life not just for business but for all. I am eager to play my part in our work for next year."

In the spirit of community-building, the Chamber annually recognizes extraordinary civic leadership at the Inaugural Dinner gala and will pay special tribute to its 2006 honorees: Civic Medal of Honor recipient Shirley Lansing and Distinguished Business Leader Award recipient Steve Sample.

Appointed to run 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fox in 1980, Lansing is one of the first women to run a major motion picture company. Later named chair of Paramount Motion Picture Group in 1991, she became the highest-ranking female in the entertainment industry. After retiring from Paramount in 2005, Lansing began the Sherry Lansing Foundation, bankrolling it personally and focusing its efforts in two areas – cancer research and educational causes. Lansing will receive the Chamber's "Civic Medal of Honor" award, for extraordinary civic leadership and public service by an individual who, by their commitment, leadership and character, reflects the very best in each of us, and who sets examples in civic life and personal excellence that serve as models for future generations. The three previous recipients of this award are former U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, business leader and philanthropist Eli Broad and civil rights leader John Mack.

Steven B. Sample became USC's tenth president in 1991. A tenured professor in the school of engineering, Sample regularly teaches undergraduates, including a much sought-after course titled "The Art and Adventure of Leadership." Under Sample's leadership, USC has become world-renowned in the fields of communication and multimedia technologies, received national acclaim for its innovative community partnerships and solidified its status as one of the nation's leading research universities.

Attendees of this annual dinner and event read like a who's who of Los Angeles County political, civic and business leadership. From members of Congress to local city councilmembers, corporate executives to small business entrepreneurs, the audience represents of the diversity of the Los Angeles region.

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*The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of business in L.A. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information visit [www.lachamber.org](http://www.lachamber.org).*