



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Brandman University Announces Fall Republican Gubernatorial Debate**

*University extended the invitation to the candidates using Twitter  
with each responding via tweet*

**Irvine, Calif. – August 19, 2009** – Brandman University, a separate, fully accredited university within the Chapman University System focusing on working students, announced that two of California’s leading Republican gubernatorial candidates Tom Campbell and Steve Poizner have accepted its invitation for a face-to-face debate on October 28, 2009 at its Irvine campus. The debate seeks to have the candidates provide their proposed “Solutions to the California Financial Crisis.” Meg Whitman has also been invited to the debate but her campaign has yet to accept.

“Brandman University is pleased that two of the leading California Republican gubernatorial candidates have accepted our invitation to debate critical issues facing the state,” said Dr. Michael A. Moodian, assistant professor of social science at Brandman University’s School of Arts & Sciences. “This is a critical election for California as we face unprecedented fiscal and employment issues that have a direct impact on Brandman University’s working students.”

Brandman University issued the debate invitation via Twitter in what is believed to be the first time a political debate has been organized on the social media site, according to Moodian.

Just minutes after the invitation was issued, Poizner’s campaign accepted via Twitter writing, “Happy to accept....Looking forward to substantive debate.”

Campbell’s tweet a short time later read, “Looking forward to offering & debating specific solutions to California’s financial crisis with my fellow candidates at Brandman University.”

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## **Republican California Gubernatorial Debate Accepted**

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In her own tweet, Whitman's campaign wrote, "Thanks for the debate invite - I'll consider the dates and respond soon."

The 75-minute debate will be co-moderated by Moodian and a second moderator, who will be announced at a later date. Half of the questions will be developed by the moderators and the other half submitted by California citizens via email and Twitter prior to the event. The order of questioning will be chosen randomly with all participants receiving an equal amount of time.

The specific protocol for California citizens to submit questions for consideration, obtain tickets to attend the debate as well as other details will be announced at a later date.

Major Republican candidates who enter the race before the debate will also be extended invitations to participate. A similar event for the Democratic hopefuls is being planned for later this year.

These gubernatorial debates are a part of Brandman University's new ForeSight conference series, designed to encourage debate and inspire action to improve the communities in which we live.

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### **About Brandman University**

Brandman University ([www.brandman.edu](http://www.brandman.edu)) which is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, focuses on meeting the unique needs of the more than 10,000 working students it serves both online and through 25 campuses in California and the state of Washington. Brandman University is a member of the Chapman University System and is known for providing non-traditional students with in-demand degree and certificate programs, individualized support services, top-tier instructors and technology-driven teaching environments.

### **About Chapman University**

Founded in 1861, Chapman University is one of California's oldest, most prestigious private universities and is home to over 4,000 undergraduate students and 1,500 graduate students at its home campus in Orange, California.