MADISON, Wis. (July 1, 2013) – Dr. Jack E. Daniels III has been named the eighth president of Madison College. Dr. Daniels is currently President of Los Angeles Southwest College. He will join Madison College August 19.

Janice Bultema, Madison College District Board trustee and senior vice president of human resources for University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics, served as chair of the ad hoc presidential committee that led the search. She says Daniels was the preferred choice of the District Board of Trustees, as well as faculty, staff, students, and community members who met the candidates during multiple district forums.

"We had three strong finalists," Bultema said, "but Dr. Daniels emerged as our first choice." Bultema said Daniels’ proven record of focusing on student success; establishing a positive work environment that facilitates faculty and employee success and development; fostering collaborative relationships with the community, elected officials, K-12 and other educational institutions, and business and industry; demonstrating an engaging interpersonal style and communication skills; and serving as a motivational and visionary leader and president at multi-campus colleges were factors that weighed heavily into the decision.

Daniels assumed his position as president of Los Angeles Southwest College in July 2006. He led the campus’ efforts to improve student success as well as its participation as Los Angeles Community College District’s first Achieving the Dream college. Daniels
managed the $400 million campus construction project and facilitated its 10,000 Small Businesses Program through the Goldman Sachs Foundation.

Daniels also served as president for three years at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Illinois, and five years at Houston Community College System's Central College. In addition, he served as faculty and has held several administrative roles at other community colleges and a baccalaureate/graduate granting institution.

Daniels earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree from Huntington College in Indiana and a Ph.D. from the Wright Institute Graduate School of Psychology, Berkeley, California.

This year marks the beginning of Madison College's second century and the opening of four new buildings on the school's Truax campus – part of a $133.7 million referendum in 2010 and the first phase of the college's "Smart Future" building plan.

"This is an historic time for Madison College, and we need a visionary leader who can preserve the college's mission of providing accessible, high-quality education that serves our community," Bultema said. "We're confident that Dr. Daniels will build on the strong foundation that's already in place and bring new ideas and a fresh perspective that will carry the college to new heights in the future.

Bettsey Barhorst, current president of Madison College who is set to retire, has agreed to remain through the transition.

Frances Huntley-Cooper, chair of the Madison College District Board expressed sincere appreciation to the 15-member Presidential Search and Screen Committee led by Board trustee Bultema along with trustees Jon Bales, DeForest School District superintendent, and Carolyn Stoner, retired education administrator. "The national search they led along with the participation of the community, faculty, students, and staff resulted in a great outcome for our College."